

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On the 17th October, at Kuling, the wife of Dr. P. G. BARRIE, of a daughter.
On the 20th October, at "Taikoo," Hankow, the wife of G. T. EDKINS, of a son.
On the 21st October, at 66, Kiangse Road, Shanghai, the wife of FREDERICK CLIFTON, Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd., of a son.
On the 22nd October, at Chusan Road, Shanghai, the wife of J. A. URQUHART, of a daughter (VERA MONTRESSER).
On the 23rd October, at No. 31, Nanking Road, Shanghai, the wife of R. J. WHITE, I.M.C., of a son.
On the 25th October, at "Ardshel," the Peak, the wife of F. J. BADELEY, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On the 24th September, at the British Consulate-General, and afterwards at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., CHARLES REAY, son of the late JAMES SHAW, J.P., of Glamorgan, to ETHEL WINEFRED, daughter of the late DAVID BRAND, of Shanghai and London.

DEATHS.

On the 22nd October, at Chouping, Shantung, the Rev. F. J. SHIPWAY, English Baptist Mission.
On the 25th October, at 8.45 p.m., at the Peak Hospital, after a short illness, ROBERT TREVILLAN HEAD, son of the late R. W. HEAD, solicitor, Exeter.
On the 31st October, at Macao, Knight Commander ALBINO DA SILVEIRA, aged 79 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 11, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAIL.

The Canadian mail of the 18th September arrived, per C. P. R. steamer *Empress of India*, on the 29th October (41 days); the German mail of the 30th September arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Gera*, on the 30th October (30 days); and the French mail of the 3rd October arrived, per M. M. steamer *Sydney*, on the 2nd November (31 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Lloyd's Agency at Auckland, New Zealand, reports that the s.s. *Ventnor*, bound for Hongkong from Wellington with a cargo of coal for the Admiralty, struck a rock and foundered. The crew were saved.

We are informed that the new Governor of Macao, Senhor Novais, is expected to leave Lisbon for his post some time in November, and is due to arrive here about the middle of December next.

The *London Gazette* states that General Fukushima of the Japanese Army and Admiral Ijima of the Japanese Navy have been made Commanders of the Bath, and Colonel Shiba a Companion of the Bath.

The Secretary of the Korean Legation at St. Petersburg has returned unexpectedly to Seoul, bringing a confidential despatch from the Russian Government, which is supposed to contain an outline of Russia's intended policy in Corea.

It is expected that the cable between Fanning and the Fiji Islands will be completed by the 1st of November. The cable-ships will then co-operate in the laying of the proposed American cable to the Philippine Islands, which, it is believed, will be finished before the 4th of July.

Russian newspapers state that the objects of M. de Witte's tour are in connection with the inspection of Vladivostok and Dalny. Vladivostok wants a commercial harbour and a modification of the Customs dues. It is stated that an expenditure of several millions of roubles is needed at Dalny, as since the breakwater was built the port has not been ice-free.

A large meeting of the China Association was held at Shanghai on the 27th October. The Committee brought forward a resolution approving Sir James Mackay's treaty. Mr. E. S. Little vigorously opposed the resolution. Mr. J. O. P. Bland, Secretary of the Municipal Council, moved, and the Committee accepted, an amendment asking for safeguards from China and suggesting additions to the treaty to prevent misunderstandings and friction and to ensure China's observance of the terms. The amended resolution was carried by 53 votes to 45.

L'Echo de Chine of the 25th ult. suggests that the proposed visit of the Court to Paotingfu is intended to become a permanent change of the capital of China, the Empress Dowager having never been really at her ease since her return to Peking.

We were informed on Wednesday from reliable Chinese sources that H. E. Tak Sow, Acting Viceroy at Canton, had commissioned the Black Flag Chief, Lu Ying Fu, to proceed overland with three battalions of Black Flag troops to Chinkiang.

M. Doumer, late Governor-General of Indo-China, vehemently condemns M. Delcassé, Minister of Foreign Affairs in France, for concluding the new treaty with Siam. M. Doumer's aggressions would, of course, have been on a larger scale.

According to Shanghai reports, the provincial authorities in Szechuen are disturbed over encroachments within their boundaries of Russians who have come over from Tibet. They have memorialised Peking to ask that help be furnished by Imperial troops to save the borderland from further invasion.

A telegram received in Tokyo says:—"The statement that Vladivostok is to be made a free port is baseless, nor has any intimation been received in official quarters, it is said, as to the abolition of import duties. In official quarters all knowledge is denied of any negotiations for a commercial treaty between Japan and Russia."

Under instructions of Viceroy Yuan Shikai, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, the military authorities of Paoting are busy enlisting 3,000 more new troops, to be added to his disciplined forces, while on the other hand a similar number of the obsolete *Huai* Army of the late Viceroy Li Hung-chang, and *Lien Chun* or foreign (?) drilled territorial army of Chihli, are being gradually dismissed to make way for the new troops. In this way it is intended to gradually replace the obsolete corps of Chihli in two years.

Administration of Manchurian affairs has been given to the Viceroy of Chihli. He has sent there a prefect who will act according to his directions and will reside in Fengtien. A Mixed Court has been established there to adjust all differences between natives and foreigners. As fast as the Russians withdraw from Manchuria Chinese troops are to be sent there. Already a permanent force of 8,000 has been sent, composed of 1,500 cavalry, 4,500 infantry, 1,000 gunners and 1,000 camp followers.

A Tientsin telegram, published in the *Asahi*, states that the Japanese Government has proposed to China that the following policy relating to foreigners should be adopted on the opening up of Manchuria:—

1.—That foreigners be allowed to travel freely in the province of Shinking.

2.—That the Shinking General should treat all nationals impartially, without making any discrimination between them.

3.—That markets should be opened, and foreign trade freely allowed.

4.—That the life and property of foreigners resident in Manchuria should have as good protection as in the Southern provinces of China.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE HUNAN MURDERS.

(Daily Press, 29th October.)

It is satisfactory to find the British Government are supporting Sir ERNEST SATOW in his just and righteous demand for the fitting punishment of the murderers of the British missionaries at Chenchow-fu. The British Minister at Peking has all along showed laudable firmness in his demand, and on the 19th inst., when the Emperor held a reception for the members of the diplomatic service, Sir ERNEST SATOW very properly refused to attend that function. He has declined all social intercourse with the Court on account of the grievous miscarriage of justice in this matter. The Consul-General in Hunan has been instructed to demand the immediate execution of the military official responsible for the murders and the adequate punishment of the other officials concerned in the crime. The action of the British Government, in insisting upon exemplary and deterrent punishment being meted out to the guilty parties at Chenchow, is fully endorsed by the leading British papers. The *Standard*, as our own telegram reported last week, remarks that "there is a vital question of principle involved in the punishment of the Chenchow mandarins. Though another quarrel with the Chinese Government is to be regretted, Sir ERNEST SATOW is bound to exact the fullest reparation for the crime and the insulting levity with which the crime is treated." Meantime the Chinese Government are resorting to their old tactics of procrastination, and all sorts of excuses are no doubt being tendered to the British Minister for the failure to bring the guilty parties to justice. This incident serves to show, in a very striking manner, the utter indifference of the Chinese to treaty obligations, and their failure to profit by the teachings of experience. It might have been supposed that the recent capture and investment of Peking by the foreign troops would at least have inspired some degree of caution in the minds of the provincial officials. But secure in their distance from the seat of central control, and probably relying, as was their wont in former times, on the divisions among the Powers to get this question shelved or slurred over, the Imperial Government have been trifling with the British Minister's demand in a manner that is equally irritating and annoying. That they will be allowed to persevere much longer in this line of policy seems happily improbable. Naturally the British Government do not wish, so soon after the evacuation of Peking, to be compelled to a display of force. Yet what will be left to them if the Chinese Government continue to set them at defiance? One thing at least is very clear, if China persists in this course, that the time has not come for the evacuation of Shanghai, and the garrison will undoubtedly be retained there so long as this shameful crime continues to be unatoned for. Until this atonement is made, the fact that Germany and France are willing to evacuate Shanghai should not, in any degree, precipitate the withdrawal of the British troops. On the other hand, if the demands of the British Minister are not promptly complied with, Tientsin should be again occupied, and the railway to Peking seized and held.

Such a step might perhaps have the effect of bringing the Imperial Government to book. It would certainly appeal to the Empress Dowager, who does not desire a return of the foreign troops to the capital,

especially at a time when her own plans are in a very undeveloped stage. Her Majesty is said to have constantly declared to those around her that she never forgets—referring of course to the events of 1900 and 1901—and it is believed that she is possessed by the one idea of obtaining revenge on the "Western Barbarians." A correspondent of our Shanghai morning contemporary says that the Empress Dowager is secretly reconstituting, on a new basis, the Manchurian army, and that she has nearly 700,000 Bannermen between the ages of eighteen and forty-six available. These are being quietly enrolled, and Her Majesty has now some 30,000 Manchus divided into regiments and half regiments, who are armed with the most modern weapons and are being assiduously drilled on the Western method. These men are to form the nucleus of a great Manchurian army of half a million men, prepared not only to defend the dynasty against the "Western Barbarians," but also from Chinese malecontents. The first batch are to be taught the use of the magazine rifle for six months and to undergo drill, and then to return to their Banner reservations, their places being filled by a similar number of fresh men, who would undergo the same curriculum, and so on until the whole available manhood of the Manchu nation would have become disciplined according to Western drill. The first contingent of "braves" has already passed through the mill, and new men are being sent to take their places. In this way the Empress Dowager is making her preparations to avert a repetition of the humiliation of 1900-01; some say to have a sweet revenge for it. Whether this be the fact or not, it is certain at any rate that Her Majesty's advisers appear to have learned little from the lessons of that period, and the Foreign Ministers do not seem to have learned much more. It is true that the Foreign Legations are now fortified and garrisoned, but of what avail would those small garrisons and their slender armament be against a force of even fifty thousand men drilled in the use of repeating rifles and possessing—as they no doubt would possess—a park of artillery? The mistake made was ever to have permitted the Empress Dowager to return to power. She should, like some other native rulers, have been relegated to obscurity, and the Emperor KWANG HSU invested with supreme authority under foreign protection and advice.

CANTON'S TRADE IN 1901.

(Daily Press, 25th October.)

Some six weeks ago we considered the report by Mr. Consul-General JAMES SCOTT on Canton's trade in 1901. We have now before us the report of Mr. F. A. MORGAN, I.M. Customs Commissioner. Both documents testify to a promising state of affairs at Canton. The disturbed condition of North China in the early part of 1901, as was only to be expected, adversely affected Canton's trade; but in spite of this the revenue collected was the largest for any year since 1892, amounting in all to Hk. Tls. 2,159,627, Hk. Tls. 320,697 more than the revenue of 1900. The import duties gave a good return, says Mr. MORGAN, the coast trade duties showed a marked improvement, the opium duties recovered to a level they have not reached since 1893, and the export duties rose a little above the average of the previous nine years. As we stated when considering Mr. SCOTT's report, 1901 was an important year in the history of Canton, for in it took place the transfer of the Native Customs Department to the Imperial Maritime Customs Service, in

accordance with the final protocol of September, 1901. With regard to this Mr. MORGAN writes:—"The signing of the Peace Protocol restored confidence and business at once became brisker. Large quantities of higher quality foreign goods and articles formerly duty-free were rushed in immediately prior to the enforcement of the new Tariff. Consequently the new Tariff yielded only some Hk. Tls. 10,000 up to the 31st December, and owing to this large stock its effects will probably not be very apparent for some time. A large portion of this excess stock of piece-goods, however, has been destroyed recently by fire. The general tendency has been advancement, and there is every promise of great activity in the near future." Mr. MORGAN goes on to speak of the reclamations at Canton and the consequent welcome relief of pressure on the harbour, the limited size of which has been a great inconvenience to traders. The local authorities showed a willingness to support the Customs desire to extend the harbour, and only a few details remained to be settled at the beginning of the present year.

Foreign imports showed an increase of nearly three millions of Haikwan Taels over the previous year's figures. But there is, as Mr. SCOTT pointed out, no way of estimating the real increase, owing to the large quantity of certain commodities which do not come under the cognisance of the Imperial Maritime Customs. Mr. MORGAN, too, says that "when ver competition between native and foreign craft ceases, or when statistics of the trade done by the former become available, we shall be able to obtain more accurate results." To that unknown quantity, the junk-trade, both the British Consul and the Customs Commissioner attribute the apparent large falling off in the import of kerosene oil. Foreign exports, though manifesting an improvement of Hk. Tls. 2,875,601 on the 1900 figures, were Hk. Tls. 3,027,714 worse than in 1899, and so, as Mr. MORGAN says, there was a good recovery after the troublous times, but nothing approaching conspicuous advance.

The year 1901, as was noted by the British consular report, was the record year in the shipping history of Canton, no less than 1,882,413 tons in all having entered the port. The figures for steamers, according to nationality, were:—British, 1,554,966 tons; German, 144,718; Chinese, 104,408; French, 31,165; American, 23,724; Norwegian, 10,887; Japanese, 9,783. For sailing vessels the figures were:—French, 2,170, and British, 592 tons. Mr. MORGAN says:—"The chief item of interest is the increase of tonnage under the French flag. Where—as in 1900 only four vessels, of 28 tons, under that flag appeared, in 1901 there are 242, of 62,330 tons, due chiefly to a boat plying regularly to Hongkong and one to Kwanchauwan." The fact of several of the China Merchants' vessels still flying the British, United States, German, and Japanese flags contributed largely to a decrease in shipping under the Chinese flag of 1,594 steamers and 145,193 tons.

Under the heading of "Miscellaneous" Mr. MORGAN has a good deal to say about piracy. He writes:—"On visiting the West River one cannot fail to notice the absence of population, except just in a thin fringe along the banks of the river; and there is little doubt that this is due to a feeling of general insecurity on account of robbers. The suppression of bandits means increased population, prosperity, and expanding trade. Those who find trade on the West River fall short of expectations blame regulations for what is more justly

"attributable to disorder and consequent 'spare population.'" There is no doubt much truth in this. Without admitting that regulations have not a good deal to do with the restriction of trade, we may well recognise that piracy, by land and water, is still more disastrous in its effects. Unfortunately the disturbed state of the West River country is not only traditional but is particularly marked in late years. Until this is more vigorously dealt with than hitherto, the West River trade cannot but suffer heavily. Happily neither the Chinese Government's Commissioner nor the British Consul now tries to conceal the gravity of the burden imposed upon commerce by the disorderly condition of Kwangtung and Kwangsi. The Chinese authorities have no excuse if they shut their eyes to the serious damage which their country is suffering through the uncontrolled license of the law-breaking element in the Two Kwang provinces. With the advent of a new Viceroy to Canton it is high time that the British Government made another representation with regard to the state of affairs on the West River. Hongkong should support such a representation to the utmost extent of its power.

SHANGHAI'S TRADE IN 1901.

(Daily Press, 30th October.)

At the beginning of the year 1901 the prospects of the trade of our northern neighbour, the port of Shanghai, did not look of the best. The troubles up north, if not at their height, were at least still very grave, trade there was almost at a standstill, hostilities of a kind were being carried on without cessation, and it could not be foretold when or even whether the Imperial Court would be persuaded to return to Peking. The commercial prosperity of Shanghai was still encountering the trials, as Mr. H. E. Hobson, the Commissioner, writes in his trade report for Shanghai in 1901, of "wild rumours intended to 'bear' markets, increase in duty levies, floods, pestilence, and destitution in the Yangtze Valley." Yet, in spite of all, the season proved a financially successful one for most branches of commerce, and no failures of any moment occurred in either foreign or native mercantile circles. Indeed the 1901 trade figures showed a gain of 22 per cent. in gross and 20 per cent. in net value over those of 1900, and 78 per cent. gross and 90 per cent. net over those of the first year of the decade—figures which must be admitted to be gratifying. "The most noteworthy 'feature of the season,'" says Mr. Hobson, "was the raising of the maritime Import Duty to an effective five per cent., and 'the removal from the duty-free list of 'articles formerly figuring in it, with 'the exception of foreign rice, cereals, 'flour, and coined and uncoined gold and 'silver. A sweeping change like this 'might well have caused great hardships 'to merchants; but the introduction of the 'new régime, though attended with much 'anxiety and trouble, caused less friction 'than might have been anticipated, thanks 'to the acceptance by the Customs of a 'temporary specific tariff on piece goods 'compiled by the American, British, 'German, and Japanese Associations of 'Commerce." The revenue collected was the highest on record for Shanghai, its total of Hk. Tls. 8,152,696 being Hk. Tls. 32,000 better than the total of 1899, the previous record year. Every heading showed an increase, especially those of Import and Export Duties. "This is the more satisfactory," says the Commissioner, "since 'little of the increase noted can be due to 'the effective 5 per cent. rate, so many

"goods claiming the old Tariff privileges 'being en route to the East up to the last 'possible moment."

The total value of foreign goods imported into Shanghai in 1901, exclusive of re-exports, was estimated at one hundred and fifty-five and a half millions of taels, thirty-five and a half millions better than in 1900 and six millions better than in 1899. It is very satisfactory to read that the countries which showed most largely in the improvement were India, with a trade of 12½ million taels; Hongkong, with 10½ millions; and the United States, with 6½ millions. It is to be noted that Hongkong Mill yarn was imported into Shanghai for the first time in 1901, to the extent of 2,550 piculs. Exports and re-exports during the year showed an increase of two and three-quarter millions of taels on the 1900 figures. The items which improved in demand were bristles, curios, fungus, hemp, hides, sesamum seed, vegetable oils, and animal and vegetable tallow. More raw silk, too, was exported than in 1900, but the trade is described by Mr. Hobson as unprofitable to both buyers and sellers, to the former on account of the fall in exchange and to the latter owing to the fluctuations in tael rates. A big decline occurred in the export of tea. The crop was only "a fair average one," and, says the report, "had it not been for the small stocks in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain, plus shortage of supply, the prices paid could never have been maintained." As with imports and exports, the coast trade showed a very considerable increase on the previous year's figures, and the inland transit trade was flourishing. Mr. Hobson draws attention to the fact that out of 10,202 passes applied for only 184 were on behalf of foreign firms. During the year 177 passes were applied for for German goods, and three each for British and Japanese goods forwarded to the interior.

Under the head of shipping, we find that 3,698 steamers and 484 sailing vessels entered Shanghai in 1901, with a tonnage of 5,395,925 tons. These figures are in excess of those for 1900, the previous record year, by 1,350,000 tons. The British, American, and German flags all made distinct gains, due to some extent to the transfer from the Chinese flag of the China Merchants' fleet. The total number of British steamers entering the harbour and the tonnage were 1,982 and 2,829,229. Germany claimed 533 steamers, of 851,622 tons; Japan, 444 steamers, of 644,042 tons; China, 343 steamers, of 411,781 tons; the United States, 158 steamers, of 193,719 tons; and France 52 steamers, of 110,395 tons. Britain had also 115 sailing vessels, of 33,865 tons.

In addition to what we have mentioned above, all further that we need refer to in Mr. Hobson's interesting report is that Hk. Tls. 3,148,856 gold and Hk. Tls. 1,518,477 silver were exported from Shanghai in excess of imports in 1901.

The *Foochow Daily Echo* of the 18th ult. says:—The following official notification was issued this afternoon by H. B. M. Consul: The Chinese authorities state that Nantai is frequented at present by a large number of natives of the dangerous classes, who endeavour to screen their malpractices by pretending to be in the service of foreigners. The authorities request me to warn British subjects to exercise vigilance with regard to such persons.—From the city we learn with regret of the death, on the 14th inst., of Sister Jésus de los Dolores, of the Foundling Hospital, from cholera, aged 43, a native of Navarra. The deceased lady was formerly the Director of the college of S. Catharina in Manila and came to Foochow in 1898.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

(Daily Press, 31st October.)

It was curious to think, in the midst of the gloom and damp which marked the greater part of yesterday, that in two days' time the Colony might be reduced once more to the "enjoyment" of a curtailed water supply. The quantity of rain which has fallen since Mr. CHATHAM'S notice was issued cannot have altered the situation, and we may therefore take it that, in default of very wet weather to-day, we shall awake tomorrow to find that our water supply is only available during the hours specified in the Water Authority's advertisement. After the unusually wet season which succeeded the last water-famine, this necessity of resorting so early to an intermittent supply is a striking comment on the wisdom of the authorities responsible in the past for the present supply of water in Hongkong. But we might conveniently forget the mistakes of the past, did we only feel secure about the future. Can we feel so secure? It is to be feared not yet. We know that, according to the 1903 Estimates, \$60,000 are to be devoted to the item of "Additional reservoirs, Tytam draining area," and \$250,000 to that of "Kowloon waterworks, gravitation scheme." Yet, as we pointed out a short time ago, there was a most disappointing lack of reference in H.E. the Governor's opening speech at the Legislative Council to the progress of the new waterworks. It had been hoped that before the arrival of another winter the Colony's water-storage capacity would be materially added to and future famines rendered improbable. This year, though we had a very heavy rainfall, compared with the length of the wet season, the fact that the rains ceased almost a month before the normal date has brought about a state of affairs but little more promising than last year. As we remarked when dealing with this subject recently, we are prepared to go on short commons sooner this year, and we have learnt some lessons in the way of economy, but we have got to face another possible famine. What steps, we are well justified in asking, does the Government propose to take to meet the scarcity? Is the provision of an intermittent supply to be the only measure of relief, unaccompanied by a hastening on of the new works? A statement by the Government at the next meeting of the Legislative Council would not only be very welcome but may also be considered as due to the public on whom the hardships of a water-famine fall. We hope that the opportunity will not be lost.

CLEANSING OPERATIONS FOR THE COMING WINTER.

(Daily Press, 1st November.)

We suggested, twelve days ago, that the Sanitary authorities should explain what measures of plague prevention it was proposed to take during the coming year in this Colony. On the 16th ultimo a proposal by Mr. E. OSBORNE to repeat the general cleansing campaign of the winter of 1901-2 was defeated. Dr. ATKINSON, Principal Civil Medical Officer and President of the Board, then suggested that the Board should recommend that some temporary inspectors be engaged, whose duty it would be to visit the houses and ascertain the state of cleanliness or otherwise of these houses. If they are dirty, said Dr. ATKINSON, the Chinese should be given, say, a couple of weeks to undertake the work of cleaning them; then let the houses be revisited at the end of the fortnight, and if they are still

dirty let the Board step in and undertake the work. In pursuance of this suggestion Dr. ATKINSON moved on Thursday last, and the Sanitary Board unanimously adopted the resolution "that the Board obtain authority to insert an advertisement in the English and Chinese newspapers, requesting the occupiers of domestic buildings to co-operate with the Board in its efforts to combat plague by thoroughly cleansing their dwellings between the 15th November and 15th December next; and informing the owners and occupiers of domestic dwellings that the Board proposes after December 15th to strictly enforce the provisions of the Bye-laws governing 'Domestic Cleanliness and Ventilation,' and that the Board will, if on inspection it be found necessary, direct its officers to cleanse and disinfect premises under the provisions of the Bye-laws for the Prevention or Mitigation of 'Epidemic, Endemic, or Contagious Disease.'" The idea underlying Dr. ATKINSON's proposal is that a trial should be given to voluntary as opposed to compulsory cleansing of premises by the Chinese, in accordance with the strong representations made by the Chinese members of the Sanitary Board on the 16th ultimo. The Chinese, said the President of the Board, should have an opportunity of undertaking the work of cleansing their houses themselves. A month is to be allowed them, during which time not only must every Chinese house be thoroughly cleansed, but also—and this every European resident would do well to keep in mind—the servants' quarters in European houses must also be made clean. After the expiration of the month, on the 15th proximo, if it should be found that any premises have not been put into the necessary condition of cleanliness then the Sanitary Board's officers must step in and do their duty. The President pointed out as the advantages of his proposal, that the Chinese would be co-operating in the cleansing work this year, the suggested method being less troublesome to them than that of last year; that the whole of the Colony would be cleansed in about one month instead of in five, as was the case last year; and that instead of costing the Colony money the cleansing operations would rather bring in money, as defaulters would be fined. This last point, we confess, did not strike us before, when Dr. ATKINSON declined to support Mr. OSBORNE at the Sanitary Board meeting on the 16th October. Discussing the rejection of Mr. OSBORNE's motion on that occasion we suggested that the residents of Hongkong would prefer to repeat the measures of 1901-02, though not with so reckless an expenditure, rather than drop cleansing measures in the forthcoming winter. We also suggested that a voluntary cleansing scheme would result in countless prosecutions for neglect. We think, however, that in his proposal to apply the bye-laws respecting "Domestic Cleanliness and Ventilation," etc., after giving the Chinese a whole month, duly advertised, in which themselves to put their houses in a properly sanitary condition, Dr. ATKINSON is making a straightforward attempt to enforce the cleanliness of the native houses of the Colony, while at the same time consulting the prejudices of the Chinese in a manner which seems to have met with the approval of their representatives on the Board.

The unfortunate coincidence of a shortage of water with the commencement of special sanitary measures, repeating the experience of last year, only emphasises what we said yesterday with regard to the water question. It is true that there is some promise of the

augmentation of our water-supply, but of course we cannot consider the situation changed at all so far. Dr. CLARK is of the opinion that a four hours' supply will be sufficient for cleansing purposes, but we fear that a certain amount of waste may be encouraged, if fresh water alone is to be used. As Dr. ATKINSON considers that salt water is suitable for the scrubbing of floors, cannot the Sanitary Board make arrangements, when the stipulated month begins on the 15th instant, for salt water to be supplied for such purposes? There will be no appreciable extra cost to the Colony and the potable water-supply will gain greatly thereby. A heavy rainfall just now would render such a step unnecessary, but in default of that the Sanitary Board might well consider the advice of its President. We have always suffered in past years from lack of foresight with regard to our supply of water, and if we err this time it will be far better to err on the side of excess of precaution. The dangers and inconveniences of a water famine in such a city as this are too notorious for us to hesitate when opportunities offer, early in the season, of doing something whereby to curtail our expenditure of an element so essential to the well being and even life of the whole community.

THE EVACUATION OF SHANGHAI.

(Daily Press, 28th October.)

Some fresh light has been thrown on the subject of the difficulties connected with the evacuation by the foreign garrison of Shanghai, which should come off on the 1st proximo, in accordance with the arrangement made with the late Liu Kung-yi. When we wrote about this matter last week it was not known whether we had the full details of Germany's conditions in return for the withdrawal of her troops from Shanghai. The telegram of the Peking correspondent of the *Times*, as summarised by REUTER in a despatch of the 24th instant, says that Germany stipulates that China will not grant to any other Power preferential, military, maritime, or economic advantages in the Yangtze Valley, nor the right to occupy any point commanding the river. This is a somewhat more detailed stipulation than that reported first, on the authority of the *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, by which China was to bind herself "not to concede to any Power upon the Yangtze any military or special advantages infringing the principle of the Open Door." There is, however, very little ultimate difference in the two accounts. Dr. MORRISON adds the important point that France has made similar conditions, omitting only the reference to "economic advantages." Such are the terms which have been demanded from China by two of the Powers whose troops remain at Shanghai. We have in REUTER's telegram of the 25th instant, published in to-day's issue, an explanation of the reason for Sir ERNEST SATOW's opposition to the demands of France and Germany. He objects, according to REUTER, because the stipulation forbidding preferential advantages refers to the Yangtze Valley and not to the whole of China. The objection seems valid. We have seen from the manner in which the Anglo-French Agreement of 1896 about Siam has been interpreted what the danger of guaranteeing one portion only of the territory of a weak state may come to. The unguaranteed part is in constant danger of aggression. We cannot but admire, as a stroke of policy merely, the manner in which Germany has gone about to secure from China a promise of the Open

Door in what was once known as the British "sphere of influence" in China. France only seems in this case to have been following her more powerful neighbour's lead. If the explanation is right which is given in the telegram, H.M. Minister at Peking objects to a stipulation guaranteeing the absence of preferential advantages in the Yangtze Valley only and not throughout the whole of China. If we judge by past history, the lack of a guarantee about the rest of China might be twisted, at some future date, into an admission that preferential advantages elsewhere are perfectly in order. Such a line of argument would well suit the book of Powers who have already secured a strong basis in one part of China, from which they are anxious by urging concessions from China to spread themselves farther and further inland, and who see that in the Yangtze Valley their position is not yet protected against a similar action on the part of another Power. In fact the argument might be put thus:—We have got our own individual slice of China, to which we are quite willing to add, but we wish to protect the best remaining part from becoming alienated to anyone as that was to us. Such a policy, however, it must be recognised, is an impossible one in the interests of international comity. The Powers have all professed their desire repeatedly, during the events which succeeded the "Boxer" outbreak, that the perfect integrity of China shall be maintained. The sincerity of this profession is now put to the test. The conditions asked of China before the promise to evacuate Shanghai is kept are in the first place unnecessary, and in the second, if asked at all, incomplete. If it were needful to make China promise not to favour one Power unduly in the Yangtze, it would be just as necessary in the rest of China. We said last week that we failed to understand the attitude of the German Government in connection with the question of Shanghai's evacuation. We are no clearer now, still assuming that Germany is not trying to act otherwise than honestly toward her allies.

BLAKE PIER AND THE CLOCK TOWER.

(Daily Press, 27th October.)

From the statements which were made upon the subject at the latest meeting of the Legislative Council—the second during last week—it appears that we cannot yet conclude that nothing will be done with regard to the erection of a shelter for the public using Blake Pier during the course of 1903. H.E. the Governor himself referred to the matter and affirmed that anxiety with regard to the erection of a shelter with which we have always credited him. Nevertheless he did not see his way to leaving the item on the estimates, without at the same time increasing taxation, and all he could hold out was the prospect that, if the result of the year's proceedings later on and the 1903 revenue appeared to justify it, the permission of the Secretary of State for the Colonies might be asked to put a vote before the Council with a view to carrying out the erection of a shelter. Sir HENRY BLAKE thought that Members of the Council would agree with him that no item in the Public Works Extraordinary was of less importance than the Blake Pier shelter—a view which may perhaps be right. But still it must be remembered that it was on the 29th November, 1900, that Blake Pier was formally opened. His Excellency in the speech which he made on that occasion said:—"I think it will be well for the pier to

"have a roof, because in wet weather a pier like this is but poor accommodation. With a Clock Tower and a good roof I think the pier will be worthy of the sea-front of this great city of Victoria." Now, two years after the opening ceremony, the pier remains confessedly unworthy of our sea-front, and there is, moreover, no immediate likelihood of the disgrace being remedied. The Clock Tower must wait and the shelter may only figure in a vote if the revenue prospects become brighter. We cannot consider this creditable to Hongkong. But if hopes of a permanent erection are doomed to be vain for some years to come, let us at least trust that the suggestion for a temporary shelter not only will be noted, but will be acted upon. As the Government sees the importance of the erection of a shelter and manifests anxiety about its carrying into execution, the provision of a matched roof, of the class which adorns Hongkong in such profusion, is not too much to look for. The removal of the Clock Tower from its present site it is evidently useless to look for until many years have elapsed. The construction of a commonplace matched covering on Blake Pier we cannot pretend to console us, but it is at least a short step in the necessary direction. The authorities will not, we hope, hesitate to spend a few dollars in making a small concession to public comfort. If we cannot be satisfied, we can at least reasonably ask for a little cover from the rain and sun for the Colony's largest pier.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 30th ult. in the Board Room. Present:—Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer (President); Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works; Hon. Dr. F. W. Clark, Medical Officer of Health; Mr. E. J. Badeley, Captain, Superintendent of Police; Mr. C. McL. Messer, Acting Registrar-General; Mr. E. Osborne, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

ANTI-PLAGUE MEASURES.

The PRESIDENT moved, in accordance with notice given, "That the Board obtain authority to insert an advertisement in the English and Chinese newspapers requesting the occupiers of domestic buildings to co-operate with the Board in its efforts to combat plague by thoroughly cleansing their dwellings between the 15th November and 15th December next; and informing the owners and occupiers of domestic dwellings that the Board proposes after December 15th to strictly enforce the provisions of the Bye-laws governing 'Domestic Cleanliness and Ventilation,' and that the Board will, if on inspection it be found necessary, direct its officers to cleanse and disinfect premises under the provisions of the Bye-laws for the Prevention or Mitigation of Epidemic, Endemic or Contagious Disease." He said that the bye-laws referred to in the motion were to the effect that the occupier of any domestic buildings shall at all times cause such buildings to be kept in a clean and wholesome condition and that the Board shall, if satisfied that any domestic building in the Colony was in a dirty condition, give notice to the householder to have such building in respect of which notice had been given thoroughly cleansed and limewashed within one week from the date of the receipt of such notice, and that the householder shall cleanse and limewash such house in accordance with the terms of such notice. From remarks made at the last meeting of the Board by the Chinese representatives, it was evident that the Chinese preferred, to undertake this work themselves. They should have an opportunity to do so, and with that object in view he had brought forward this motion. A month had been given them in which to do this work, and what was required was that in that time not only every Chinese house should be thoroughly cleansed but also that European residents should see that their servants' quarters were also cleansed.

Everything should be taken out of the rooms and the floors thoroughly swept and scrubbed, and in the Chinese tenement houses particularly this was needed, as dust and dirt accumulated in the cubicles under the beds and in the corners. If at the expiration of the time given—from the 15th of November till the 15th of December—it was found that this had not been done, it would be necessary for the Board's officers to cleanse the premises, under the provisions of the bye-laws for the prevention or mitigation of epidemic, endemic or contagious diseases. These bye-laws gave the Board power to undertake this work even in non-epidemic times. Before doing so, it would be necessary to define the areas to be dealt with. This could be done by a motion defining the City and Kowloon. The advantages of this method were that the co-operation of the Chinese would be obtained, as the proposed method would be less troublesome to them; secondly, the whole of the Colony would be cleansed in about one month instead of taking five months, as was the case last year; and, thirdly, the cleansing operations would be a source of revenue rather than of expenditure, as defaulters would be fined. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the benefit of cleansing *versus* anti-plague inoculation, he would draw the attention of the Board to the following remarks made by Sir W. Collins in a popular address delivered at the recent Sanitary Congress at Manchester on "Man *versus* the Microbe," which he thought were very *à propos* of the question. "The natural vigour of their own life," Sir William Collins said, "was the best security men had against the invasion of their bodies by lowly forms of animal or vegetable life. Healthy blood was fatal to disease germs." Sir William Collins suggested that bacteriologists stood too close to their special study to see it in proper perspective, and argued that in the case of tubercle and cholera and plague, and in other diseases of man and animals, the sanitary methods of cleansing the environment had been successful in stamping out disease when methods of the bacteriologist, which transferred the battleground with disease to the blood and tissues of the individual, though apparently successful in the laboratory, had failed in practical application. In other words, Sir William Collins stated that the cleaning of the environment was better than inoculation. Dr. Atkinson then formally moved the resolution.

Mr. BADELEY seconded.

Mr. OSBORNE, in supporting the motion, said he was quite sure that every member of the Board, and especially their Chinese colleagues, would do all in his power to assist in the direction indicated by the President. (Mr. Fung Wa Chun: Hear, hear.) There was, however, another direction in which it would be necessary, he thought, for the Board, or, rather, the powers that be, to look well ahead, and that was with regard to the supply of water. On Wednesday a notice appeared in the papers to the effect that from the 1st of November water would be turned on in the City of Victoria for two hours only and in the Hill district for three-quarters of an hour.

Hon. Dr. CLARK—Four hours in the City.

Mr. OSBORNE corrected himself, and proceeded to say that if this process of cleansing was to be properly carried out they must make arrangements for an adequate supply of water, otherwise the Chinese would have a very reasonable excuse for not cleansing their premises as thoroughly as could be wished. They would simply say that they could not cleanse because they had no water, and therefore Mr. Osborne desired to suggest that the Board ask the Government to make arrangements for a proper supply of water during the time that the cleansing operations were proceeding.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN also concurred in the President's view, and favoured Mr. Osborne's remarks with regard to an adequate supply of water. It was impossible, he said, to cleanse a house without water, and he ventured to suggest that the President embody in his resolution a proposal for the appointment of two or three members of the Board to arrange details for the carrying out and supervision of the cleansing operations by the Board officers and coolie gangs. Such supervision as he had in mind, he thought, would prevent the infliction of unnecessary hardships on the Chinese.

The PRESIDENT was of opinion that Mr. Fung Wa Chun did not quite understand the proposal.

The Chinese would be given a month in which to do the work, and it was only in the event of their failing to do in that period what was required of them that the Board's officers would be called upon to take on the work.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN replied that it would do no harm to get two or three members of the Board to supervise the cleansing gangs.

The PRESIDENT—That is I suppose if the Chinese themselves do not do the work.

Mr. OSBORNE—Then we could discuss the matter.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—Yes, very well.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK remarked that there was another point worth considering, and that was in relation to the notice proposed to be given. A mere advertisement in the local newspapers was not sufficient, because, as members were probably aware, many Chinese could not read English, and some not even their own language. In addition to such advertisement in the local newspapers, he thought that the Board should cause a large number of handbills to be printed in plain, colloquial Chinese and freely distributed, so as to enable the occupiers of Chinese domestic houses to know what they were required to do.

The PRESIDENT—That is a very useful proposition; I think the matter might be left to the Registrar-General.

Mr. MESSER—Certainly.

The PRESIDENT (continuing)—The question of supplying water, I think, is a most important one, but personally I also think that sea water—salt water—would do as well for cleansing purposes as fresh water.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—You cannot cleanse a house—the inside of a house, at any rate—with salt water.

The PRESIDENT—You can scrub the floors with it.

Hon. Dr. CLARK—I think that if there is going to be a four hours' supply there will be sufficient water to cleanse the houses. Anyway, I do not think we need trouble about that at present.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—If we get a four hours' supply.

The PRESIDENT's motion was then put to the meeting and agreed to unanimously.

DUST-CLOUDS.

Mr. OSBORNE moved "That measures be taken to stop the nuisance caused by scavenging coolies raising clouds of dust in the public streets." With the advent of the dry season, he said, the street-scavenging coolie seemed to have become possessed of most extraordinary vigour and zeal—(laughter)—and evidence of this might be experienced almost any day in the clouds of blinding dust which he created. Armed with a powerful rattan broom, he progressed with great speed rapidly through the streets, whisking dust and debris from side to side, and if perchance a European passed his way, and especially if that European happened to be a lady, clad in the fashionable garb of a trailing skirt, then his energy knew no bounds. (Laughter.) There might possibly be some explanation for this; it might be that to his untutored intellect the trailing skirt presented itself in the light of a possible rival—(laughter)—but, be this as it might, there could be no such justification in regard to male attire, and therefore he had been asked to bring the matter before the Board in the hope that the coolie's *modus operandi* might be curbed, and as a remedy would suggest that he be let free only at night and the sweeping done when the streets were empty. (Applause.)

The PRESIDENT thought this was more a matter for the Board to arrange with its officers. He might state that as recently as the 9th of this month he had made a complaint to the Medical Officer of Health in regard to the matter. Numerous complaints had been received as to the nuisance existing, both in Battery Path and in Garden Road, from 9.30 a.m. and 1 p.m., the hours when Europeans were mostly coming from and going to the lower tram station. He thought that since then the nuisance had been somewhat abated.

Mr. OSBORNE said that it had been recently brought to his notice as existing in the Peak Road near the tramway station. Perhaps it would not be necessary to press a formal motion?

The PRESIDENT was sure that if the matter was left to the Medical Officer of Health he would satisfactorily arrange it.

Hon. W. CHATHAM thought that was the

proper course to adopt. The carrying out of this work, he understood, was entirely in the hands of the Board, and its performance was looked after by its executive officers who, if they had instructions, would no doubt do their best to instigate or prevent any nuisance of this kind. At the same time, of course, wherever scavenging had to be done dust was a necessary concomitant, but he thought that if the hours could be regulated so that the sweeping would be done, as had been suggested, when the streets were free from passers-by, then there could be no grounds for complaint.

Mr. OSBORNE agreed to the President's suggestion and said he would not press his motion.

OTHER NUISANCES BY COOLIES

Mr. OSBORNE next moved: "That Government be asked to make provision in the next conservancy contract for fining the contractor when there are reasonable grounds to suspect that his coolies have thrown night-soil into the drains or on to the hillsides." Under the terms of the contract, he understood, no provision was made for punishing the contractor when his coolies committed the offences indicated in the motion, and whilst he admitted that his suggestion meant the adoption of a course opposed to British laws and ideas, he was of opinion that, as it was impossible to follow in the tracks of coolies pursuing the occupation mentioned to see that they discharged the duties attaching thereto in a proper manner, the contractor should be fined in every case where a coolie's burden had been thrown into a drain or on the hillside. In the case brought to his notice, concluded Mr. Osborne, there was evidence to show that a coolie had dumped his burden on the hillside draining into Pokfulam Reservoir, and that was a very serious affair, more especially as, he understood, a case of cholera had occurred in the house.

Hon. Dr. CLARK said he was prepared to formally second the motion merely with a view to enable the Board to obtain the advice of the Crown law advisers. As Mr. Osborne had said, the suggestion as it stood was a travesty of British law and probably could not be put into force in that particular way. It was possible, however, that the difficulty might be got over by a bye-law. The Board had the power to make bye-laws, and these bye-laws had the direct force of law; but at any rate this was a point which he thought might be considered and discussed by the law advisers of the Crown. If Mr. Osborne would concur, he should like to suggest that the question be referred to the law advisers of the Crown. He would be very pleased to meet the Crown Solicitor and discuss the matter with him.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN said he was in favour of such a bye-law being made as had been suggested. If the making of it lay with him, he would not confine himself to dealing with offences committed on the hillside but over the whole of the Colony.

Mr. OSBORNE—That is done privately.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN replied that while that was so, a stringent law was necessary. He had heard complaints after complaints that the night-soil coolies simply dumped the night-soil into the storm-drains. Last week he had heard of such a case occurring at the junction of Old Aberdeen Road and Hollywood Road. It was really an awful thing, and those coolies who offended in this way should be severely punished. The motion was carried unanimously.

IMPURE WATER.

The analysis by Mr. F. Browne, Government Analyst, of a sample of water taken from a well at 99, Jervois Street, showed that the water was so tainted with impurities as to be unfit for potable purposes and likely to prove injurious to health.

The report was circulated amongst members, who were asked to state whether they agreed that the well should be closed. The following minutes were appended:—

Col. Hughes—"Close."

Mr. Lau Chu Puk—"No, if the water is not used for potable purposes."

Mr. Fung Wa Chua—"I am not in favour of closing this well so long as the water is not used for potable purposes, and a notice should be posted up to this effect."

Mr. F. J. Badeley—"Close."

Hon. Dr. Clark—"Close. Who is going to

stand by and see that it is not used for drinking purposes?"

Hon. W. Chatham—"Close."

Mr. C. McL. Messer—"Close."

The PRESIDENT moved that the well be closed.

Mr. OSBORNE seconded.

The motion was carried *nem con.*

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality statistics of the Colony for the week ended 11th October show the death-rate per 1,000 per annum to be 14.9, against 19.3 for the previous week and 120.1 for the corresponding period of last year.

RETURNS OF RATS

During the week ended 27th October the total number of rats caught in the Colony by the Board's rat-catchers was 1,883—1,260, of which 20 were infected, in Victoria, and 623, of which 11 were infected, in Kowloon.

This was all the business.

THE JUNKS COLLISION ORDINANCE.

In the *Government Gazette* of the 25th ult. was printed a Bill about to be introduced into the Legislative Council, which merits more publicity than is to be obtained in the comparative obscurity of the *Gazette*. The Bill is entitled the Junks (Collision) Ordinance, and, put shortly, it provides that in the event of a collision at night between any junk and any non-Chinese sailing or steam ship outside the territorial waters of the Colony, the junk shall be held to blame unless she can prove she was carrying at the time the lights required by the International Regulations for preventing collisions at sea. In the "objects and reasons" attached to the Bill it is stated: "It is to be regretted that Chinese junks cannot be compelled to observe at least that portion of the Regulations which relates to lights. In the waters of the Colony, junks are required, by Section 25 (1) of Ordinance No. 36 of 1899, when under way between sunset and sunrise, to exhibit, at a height not less than 20 feet above the hull, a bright white light visible all round the horizon at a distance of at least one mile. Beyond such waters they seem to carry a light or not as they please. Although the Legislature of this Colony cannot compel the observance of the International Rules concerning lights by junks outside the territorial waters, there can be no injustice in refusing to allow successful resort to the Colonial Court by junks neglecting to carry proper lights themselves, while claiming damages for a collision with some ship which is subject to the International Regulations."

A more complete condemnation of the Bill than that contained in these paragraphs could not be written in the guise of objects and reasons for introducing it. If it is proper for a junk to carry a white light on her mast visible for at least one mile all round the horizon and no side lights while within the territorial waters of the Colony, why is it improper to carry the same light outside? Yet by the International Regulations a sailing vessel may not carry such a light on her mast and must carry red and green side-lights. The territorial waters of the Colony are as crowded with shipping as any waters in the neighbourhood, but the Legislature of the Colony does not compel the observance of the International Regulations concerning lights by junks within those waters, because of the onerous character of the requirements of those regulations and of the hardship that would be imposed on the Chinese seafaring population of the Colony in refusing to allow successful resort to the Colonial Court by junks neglecting to carry the lights proper under those regulations. If the Government does not consider it reasonable or just to impose the Regulations on junks in the territorial waters, it is hard to see how the Government can justify its proposal to penalise junks for not conforming to the Regulations in the neighbouring seas. The proposal of the Government is in fact hopelessly illogical. If the provisions of Ordinance 36 of 1899 are satisfactory in practice, the proposals of this Bill go further than is required in the interests of shipowners. If this Bill is necessary for the protection of shipowners, Ordinance 36 of 1899 should be amended and the same law enforced in and out of the territorial waters.

THE NAVAL AND MILITARY ACTIVITY IN HONGKONG.

During the past week the greatest activity has prevailed at the Naval depôts in the Colony, and speedy preparations are being made for the despatch of warships northward. As is usual in such cases, the authorities are extremely reticent in the matter of giving any information as to the movements on foot, and the secret of the reason for the unwonted departure of the warships from Hongkong at this time has been so far well guarded. H.M.S. *Espeigle* left for Shanghai on Tuesday. On Wednesday the sloop *Algerine* also sailed for the same destination. The cruiser *Amphitrite* was expected to sail on Wednesday too, and, with that end in view, she went on a short trial spin at 8 a.m.; on her return to the Harbour it was found that she had sustained a slight breakdown in her engines and consequently her departure was delayed.

On the 30th ult. there was no appreciable diminution in the signs of activity in the Naval Yard and aboard the British warships in the harbour, and as a result rumours and conjectures were as rife and as startling as ever. H.M.S. *Cressy* came out of dock and H.M.S. *Blenheim* took her place. Naturally, the authorities observe the utmost reticence, but whether their secrecy conceals a serious political move or is simply the natural concomitant of a demonstration embracing no international significance whatever—a kind of experiment in mobilisation—is of course impossible for those outside to decide. Our own opinion inclines in the latter direction, and it has the support of views held in semi-official circles.

One report that obtained currency in the Colony on Thursday was to the effect that the Welsh Fusiliers would not take their departure on Saturday, as we believe, was originally intended. It was stated that a regimental order was issued that those of the Fusiliers already here were to be ready to embark for Shanghai at once; and that at 10 a.m. this order was cancelled, immediate embarkation for India being substituted, this again being cancelled. This report, so far as it went, was correct, but there is no known political reason for the delay. The transport *Wakool*, which arrived on Thursday afternoon from the North with about two hundred of the Welsh Regiment on board, is to undergo some repairs which will prevent her from sailing possibly till Monday. Beyond this, we have been unable to ascertain any reason for the statement that the Fusiliers are to be detained in view of possible emergency.

On Friday afternoon H.M.S. *Amphitrite* left for the North, her destination being given as Weihaiwei. H.M.S. *Cressy* was taking in stores, etc., all day.

H.E. SENHOR CASTELLO BRANCO IN HONGKONG.

H.E. Senhor Conselheiro José d'Azevedo Castello-Branco and suite arrived here on the 28th ult. by the German Mail steamer *Hamburg* on their way home. On the arrival of the steamer Senhor Conselheiro Romano went on board to meet His Excellency, and shortly afterwards he landed and proceeded to the King Edward Hotel. The Acting Governor of Macao, Mr. Basto, the president of the Leal Senado of Macao, and several Government officials from Macao, came over by the *Heungshan* to meet the Minister and to confer with him probably on the subject of the concession just obtained by H.E. from China for the construction of a Macao-Canton railway and the advantages for commerce and navigation for Macao.

Senhor Branco was entertained at dinner on Tuesday at the residence of Senhor Conselheiro Romano, the Portuguese Consul General. Among those present, besides the Minister, there were Dr. Lello, Acting Governor of Macao; Mr. A. J. Basto, the president of the Leal Senado; Mr. Moraes, Portuguese Consul at Canton; Lieut. Santos, aide-de-camp to the Acting Governor; Mr. C. d'Assumpção, the interpreter to the Embassy; Captain d'Azevedo and officers of the Portuguese gunboats *Diu* and *Zaire*; Mr. J. J. Leiria, the Vice-Consul for Brazil; and Mr. J. P. Leite. The ladies present were Mrs. Romano and Mrs. Leiria.

Senhor Conselheiro Romano proposed the health of the Minister, who responded in fitting terms.

The following was the menu, which was beautifully printed in blue on sateen:—

Potage de Volaille aux champignons.
Poisson garni, sauce capres.
Petites bouchées à la Reine.
Filet de bœuf aux épices.
Oiseaux de riz, sauce tomate.
Cotelettes de mouton à la jardinière.
Cailles farcies aux olives.
Pâté de foie gras en aspic.
Mayonnaise de chapon.
Légumes à la duchesse.
Dinde rotie, salade.
Jambon de York.
Pouding Excellent.
Macédoine de fruits.
Glacé à la Vanille.
Dessert.

H.E. Senhor Conselheiro Castello Branco left on Wednesday for home by the *Hamburg*, leaving his Secretary as *Chargé d'Affaires* in Peking; and we understand that H. E. will return to China some time in March next to ratify the treaty with China.

THE EASTERN SCOTIA LODGE OF FREEMASONS.

The ceremony of the consecration and installation of the Lodge Eastern Scotia of Free and Accepted Masons (No. 923 on the roll of the Grand Lodge of Scotland) took place on the 25th ult. in Chater's Bungalow at Kowloon. Wor. Bros. G. C. Anderson, E. J. Main and G. A. Watkins officiated, and were assisted by the Rt. Wor. Masters, officers and members of Lodges St. John No. 618 S.C. and Naval and Military No. 843 S.C. In all about 150 were present, and the ceremony was highly successful. The duties of Director of Ceremonies were ably discharged by Wor. Bro. F. Howell. The ceremony was most impressive. Officers for 1902 were installed as follows:—Right Worshipful Master, Wor. Bro. W. Farmer; Immediate Past Master, Wor. Bro. F. Howell; Wor. Substitute Master, Wor. Bro. H. Horley; Wor. Senior Warden, Wor. Bro. H. B. Bridger; Wor. Junior Warden, Wor. Bro. J. A. Tarrant; Treasurer, Bro. C. F. Focken; Secretary, Bro. W. M. Everall; Chaplain, Bro. W. C. Jack; Senior Deacon, Bro. T. H. Jewitt; Junior Deacon, Bro. W. E. Claret; Steward, Bro. G. Patton; Director of Ceremonies, Bro. P. D. Hyett; Inner Guard, Bro. F. Allen; Tyler, Bro. J. Vastone.

In the course of the ceremony, the Chaplain (Bro. W. C. Jack) delivered an eloquent oration, the concluding passage of which was in the following terms:—The present occasion gives fresh evidence of the increasing affection of its (the Order's) friends; we offer our best congratulations to the Right Worshipful Master, Worshipful Wardens, Officers and Members of the new Lodge. We commend their zeal, and hope it may meet with the most ample recompense; may their Hall be the happy resort of piety, virtue and benevolence, may it be protected from accident and long remain a monument of their attachment to Masonry, may their Lodge continue to flourish, their union to strengthen, and all their happiness to abound. And when they and we all shall be removed from the labours of this earthly Lodge, may we be admitted to the brotherhood of the perfect in the building of God, the Hall not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

After the investiture of the officers Bro. G. C. Anderson addressed the R.W.M., the wardens and the brethren of the new Lodge. Great satisfaction was expressed on all hands regarding the suitability of the Bungalow for Lodge purposes. An excellent supper, provided by the King Edward Hotel, was served during the evening. It should be mentioned that Bro. W. Brand officiated as organist. The committee desire to thank those members who kindly lent their launches for the convenience of those who were present from the Hongkong side.

The Viceroy of Szechuen has appealed to the Chinese Imperial Government to remit one-half the taxes which the people in his province are to pay toward the indemnity fund. He explains that the appeal is due to the famine in the province.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 30th October.

CURRENT EVENTS.

The weather has been very warm here of late for the time of the year, and the crops have suffered much from the drought; but happily all to-day the clouds have gathered on every side and this evening it is raining steadily. Last Saturday the *Sandpiper* arrived with Lieut. and Mrs. Lockhart from Whampoa for a 'ten days' stay in this port. As the *Dia* left on Monday for Hongkong, she is at present the only gunboat at Macao.

Sr. BRANCO'S MISSION.

It does not appear that the colony is to gain much from the recent visit of the Portuguese Minister to Peking. The projected railway to Canton is not brought any nearer to realisation—which means that it is still very far off, and the only suggestion on which the Chinese Government had to make for the improving of the commerce of Macao was characteristic of Chinese ideas upon the subject. The Minister was advised that permission would be graciously given to the Portuguese to advance the Imperial Customs barriers so as to include Macao, instead of ending at Lappa as at present.

The advantage of this was to be that the Portuguese could collect dues from junks and other vessels coming to Macao, and that trade would be free from Macao into China. But on the other hand it would destroy the advantages which accrue to Macao as a free port, and would give the Chinese a pretext for regarding the colony as in reality part of their own Empire. Such a commercial concession scarcely seems to warrant much enthusiasm, and unless there are other concessions which have not transpired, this mission will not prove of any value to Portugal or Macao.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 29th October.

THE COST OF H.E. TAO MU'S FUNERAL.

It is customary when a Viceroy or Provincial governor here goes away, or falls sick and dies, or even makes an official call, receives the visit of a foreign Consul, or gives an entertainment, that it should be the duty of the Magistrates of Nam Hoi and Pun Yu to bear all expenses. But at present there is an exceptional case. The Acting Prefect Kung, who was a *protégé* of the late Viceroy Tao Mu, has offered to pay all expenses attending the funeral obsequies of his late benefactor to repay the favours that he has received. H.E. Tao Mu made him a secretary for foreign affairs on account of his knowledge of English, and then acting prefect of Kwangchow-fu, and by a memorial to the Throne recommended him to be a 'Taotai'. But as Kung is very busy he has deputed his secretary Ching Hi Lui to look after the funeral obsequies. It is said that His Excellency died poor. When his remains will be conveyed to his native place in Chikiang is not yet known.

A NEW EXAMINER.

A new literary examiner, Chu Chow Wing, will be in Canton by the end of next month, as the old examiner, Man Chi, a Manchu, has resigned. During the Boxer agitation in Peking nearly the whole of Man Chi's family was murdered and so disheartened was he that he has no further mind to be a mandarin. On his retirement the Government is sending Chu Chow Wing to Canton to hold the literary examination.

THE STATE OF BUSINESS.

As things here are getting dearer day by day business is at its ebb; but the joss-paper business is doing very well. The whole population in the village of Pek Kong is following this paper business. In Shun Tak, and Shi-Ui, too, the people are doing well. A lad generally makes about 50 cents a day and a man or woman earns more. Besides this the business of bricks and tiles and that of banking, are doing very well; all the rest are dull.

CONSUL VOLPICELLI AT CANTON.

Cavaliere Z. H. Volpicelli, Consul for Italy, has been to Canton and is staying in the Victoria Hotel. Crowds of Chinese officials have been continually making calls upon him.

PAKHOI.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Pakhoi, 27th October.

AN OFFICIAL CHANGE.

Mr H. A. Little, H.B.M. Acting Consul, arrived on the 26th ult. to take the place of Mr. Consul Bennett, who has been transferred to Wuchow. Mr. Bennett, who left here for his new post on the 30th ult., did not appear to have been suited by this climate, for during the time he was here he was never in robust health, and his transfer was doubtless due principally to this cause.

THE NEW OPIUM TAX.

The party of Chinese gentlemen detailed to collect the new opium impost in this port arrived here as long ago as the 15th ult., by the Chinese gunboat *Kwong Kam*; but as they have not collected anything yet since their arrival, it remains to be seen how the enterprise will be able to exist for any longer period.

NOT A MAN-EATER.

A tiger was shot last week by some native soldiers who were patrolling about the village of Pak Loong, a few miles from this port. The beast was reported to have been living recently on pigs and other animals in the neighbouring villages. The carcass, weighing over a picul, was brought out and retailed at from 15 to 50 cents per catty; the natives seem to value its flesh more than that of any other animal.

THE NEW FRENCH POST OFFICE.

The buildings especially intended for the French Post Office having just been completed are now ready to be occupied, and business will in future be conducted in the new premises. M. Baylard, Collector of Posts and Telegraphs, arrived here last week from Monky, Tonkin, to take charge of the service.

THE GERMAN CRUISER "TIGER"

arrived on the 20th instant, with Mr. F. Weiss, Interpreter to the German Consulate at Canton, on board. He, I am informed, came invested with the power of a Vice-Consul, to deal with some matters connected with the German Mission here. The Prefect and the Sub-prefect of Limchow were summoned here for a conference and arrived early on the 21st, when a meeting was convened for the same afternoon at the residence of the Commissioner of Customs. At the meeting, which lasted about one hour, there were present: Mr. Weiss, the Commander of the *Tiger*, the Prefect and the Sub-prefect of Limchow, the local Magistrate, and a Delegate to represent Tamchow-chow. Considering the short duration of the interview, the whole affair could not have been of much moment, and it must have been amicably settled, for the two distinguished officials from Limchow left the following morning, while the *Tiger* left the same afternoon.

THE DOINGS OF THE UNDERLINGS.

Availing themselves of their visit to this port the underlings of the Prefect of Limchow attempted to impose a tax of 8,000 copper cash on each pawnbroker's shop here. The proprietors of the shops, needless to state, joined hands and resisted the attempt; in order to signify their dissatisfaction they threatened closing their establishments. In fact, the doors of the shops were practically closed for two days and they would not take any thing more on pledge. By this determined action on the part of the pawnbrokers, they carried with them the sympathy of the people.

DEARTH OF RICE.

Notwithstanding the large amount of rice brought by every steamer from Hongkong, the price of this staple is as high as ever. The coarsest Saigon quality is fetching \$5.10 per picul.

DENGUE.

The spread of this disease in Chinatown is now general. As it is of a mild character, the people are taking it calmly, and generally it passes off within a week.

THE REVISED IMPORT TARIFF.

This long-looked-for document will be out in a few days and it will take effect from the first day of the Chinese tenth moon, according to the Customs Notification issued on the 25th instant. This is a true boon to the merchants, as it will save many animated disputes between them and the Customs officers regarding the

values of the merchandise passing through the Customs shed every day.

EMIGRANTS.

The s.s. *Arnold Luyken* left here on the 25th instant for Min'ok with about 800 emigrants on board. The ship was filled up to her utmost capacity. Consequent upon the dearth of rice, coupled with the failure of the sweet potato crop owing to want of rain, emigrants are pouring in from the mainland, willing to work abroad in preference to starvation.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items of news are from the *P. & T. Times* of the 10th and 11th ult.:

The native papers mention that the Japanese Minister is likely to go on leave to Japan shortly.

A mail dated Hamburg, September 12th, reached Tientsin on October 8th, that is, twenty-six days from date of writing.

Our readers will not have failed to note a new feature in the Tientsin trade, the great "Blue Funnel" boats at the bar.

The new building of the Peking University is said to be completed, and the Entrance examinations will be held shortly.

Most of the principal Hsien Schools are now furnished with two English speaking teachers. Dr. Tenney having been able to send 30 qualified young men into the interior.

The Tls. 700,000 indemnity for the mission property destroyed in Hunan was, we hear, voluntarily offered by the officials in order to secure their positions. It was much in excess of the amount demanded, but was accepted by the British Consul, says the *Je Je*.

We believe it is not generally known that Cheng-chou, where the late Hunan murders were committed, is especially noted for its superstitions with regard to the charm-curing of diseases and exorcism of devils. It was therefore particularly easy to raise the well-poisoning story.

We are glad to learn that Captain Manthe, with the sanction of the C.I.M. Customs, has been appointed *aide-de-camp* to H. E. the Viceroy, who could not have an abler assistant at his right hand. Captain Munthe accompanied H. E. to and from Shanhaikwan on his recent visit.

The most prominent feature of Peking at the moment is the wonderful scaffolding erected round the Ketteler Monument in Hatanen Street. This construction is a fine specimen of the builder's art both in size and in the ingenuity with which it has been put together. The big poles are composed of great numbers of smaller ones lashed together, and the bracings and stays form quite a labyrinth. The Monument is not yet above the hoarding, but soon will be. When we state that some of the monoliths weigh well over 20 tons, it can be understood that a substantial framework is necessary to raise them to position.

Since the rendition of the Peking-Shanhaikwan portion of the Railway, had it not been for the publicity given to the matter in the press, ninety-nine per cent. of the travelling public would not be aware that any change had taken place, but outside the Wall quite a different state of affairs prevails. For political reasons the line instead of being handed over to the Railway administration was returned to the Chinese territorial officials, who of course know little or nothing about railways. Since the Russians transferred the working of the train service has been totally disorganised and we hear from Shanhaikwan that a party of American tourists was stranded for some days between Newchwang and Shanhaikwan. The sooner the old staff, both Chinese and foreign, can be sent back to their former posts, the better. We understand this has not been done yet, and travellers should take note.

The Tartar General Tsengchi has sent 5,000 infantry to Newchwang for the protection of the line at that end.

Retired Commander E. W. Yorke has been appointed King's Harbour-Master and Naval Executive Officer at Weihaiwei.

Several prominent Boxer leaders are returning to Peking, says the *Je Je*, among them the wife of the degraded Duke Tsai Lan, who has been warmly received by the Empress Dowager: and ex-Prince Tsai Yi.

M. DE WITTE AT VLADIVOSTOCK.

Vladivostok, 14th October.

The Russian Minister of Finance, M. de Witte, arrived here by special train from Moscow on the 9th inst., being accompanied by the Military Governor of the local Maritime District, Lieutenant-General N. M. Tchitchagoff, who returns after a lengthy leave of absence. The Minister and the Governor were met by many of the local officials, and after the exchange of greetings, drove to the residence of the Military Governor. The special train which carried the Minister direct from Moscow to Vladivostok took only fourteen days to cover the distance, while about two-and-a-half days were spent in stopping to inspect various places on the Chinese Eastern Railway. Thus, with the present state of the road, a fast passenger train might cover the distance from St. Petersburg to Vladivostok, including the usual stops, in about 12½ days. With the completion of the Baikal connecting line and a further improvement of the Chinese Eastern Railway line, it will be possible to travel the same distance in less than ten days.

On the 10th inst., by invitation of the Minister of Finance, there assembled at the residence of the Military Governor representatives of the city administration, members of the local Exchange Committee, and a number of prominent merchants, in order to discuss with them various matters pertaining to local trade, petitions regarding which had previously been sent to the Minister while at St. Petersburg. After a lengthy discussion, during which the Minister asked a number of questions regarding the state of local commerce, His Excellency announced that after careful consideration he was able to give favourable replies to the petitions presented, many of which, it is hoped, will have a direct influence upon the revival of trade here.

The questions referred to are:—

(1) The establishment at the port of Vladivostok of a "free zone harbour."

(2) Permission to make transshipments of foreign goods in transit on the same conditions as at the southern ports of Manchuria—i.e. that the Customs duty shall be returned upon the export of the goods from the country, and an *ad valorem* duty imposed only on such goods as are imported.

(3) To extend the preceding rule to all goods in transit by land.

(4) Permission to import by ship free of duty all goods of Chinese manufacture (except tea and alcohol), on the same conditions as those imported by the land route.

(5) To equalise the railway tariff rates between Vladivostok, Port Arthur, and Dalny.

(6) To facilitate the method of passing goods by the Customs officials.

(7) Permission to organise small stock companies in this part of the country.

(8) The establishment of a commercial school at Vladivostok.

With regard to many other petitions presented by the local merchants, the Minister promised his consideration.

The local merchants, in order to commemorate the beneficial result of their endeavours, have resolved to establish a scholarship at the local Eastern Institute in the name of M. de Witte, the means for which have already been subscribed. The Minister, before leaving, thanked the merchants for the honour they had done him and consented to the proposal.

In consequence of M. de Witte's attitude, a better feeling prevails among commercial men here, and a big revival of trade is shortly expected. *Kobe Chronicle*.

There has been a report current amongst the natives near Seremban that a volcano in Sumatra, in the Menang Kabu district, is in a state of activity, and that the haze which has been prevalent lately is the smoke from that mountain. If the report is true, says a *Malay Mail* correspondent, it sounds a much more likely solution of the mystery than the suggestion that it is dust from Martinique, or "smoke from Japan." Sumatra is very near at hand and the smoke could be very easily blown across the Straits. According to the *Mail*, the Chinese at Kuala Lumpur regard the present abnormal atmospheric conditions as the precursor of a terrible calamity.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE DOCK CO. AND HOME SHAREHOLDERS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
London, 24th September, 1902.

SIR.—Since the arrival of the German mail the Bank and Dock Company's meetings have naturally been the chief subjects of conversation when old China hands have met. I have been out of town and so have only seen one or two, but from what they tell me of the views of others I may safely say that the feeling of indignation here is very strong in regard to the state of affairs revealed by the Dock Company's report and at the meeting. We do not care much whether we get \$6 or an extra dollar (borrowed at 6 per cent. to pay a dividend of about 4 per cent. on what some of us paid for our shares last year), but we naturally feel annoyed that we should be used as an excuse for keeping the share-holders out of their money for three months. A "mean trick" is a modified form of the expression used by one old Hongkongite to characterise it. If we are so important, why did the directors not consider us when they proposed to rush through their scheme for a new dock? From what I hear, I may inform the directors that they need not look for support for that scheme from a single shareholder here, notwithstanding that others as well as I are interested in Green Islands. I know that several intend sending out instructions to vote against it.—Yours, etc.,

DOCKED ENOUGH ALREADY.

COLLAPSE AT NO. 56, FIRST STREET.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
10, Queen's Road,
Hongkong, 24th October.

SIR.—A paragraph has recently appeared in the *Hongkong Telegraph* to the effect that our client, Cheung Hong, had left the Colony and would probably not appear to stand his trial for manslaughter. This statement is incorrect. The *Hongkong Telegraph* had duly retracted it; but we are instructed to ask you to insert this letter in order to remove any doubts there may be on the subject, as such an impression is likely to prejudice our client, who is now in the Colony and has every intention of standing his trial on Monday next.—Yours, etc.,

DEACON & HASTINGS.

THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Anping, South Formosa, 20th October.

SIR.—With regard to the earthquake reported in your paper of the 13th inst., it may interest your readers, particularly the gentleman owning the rocking teapoy, to know that the shock was felt in South Formosa. According to notes registered at the Tainan Observatory, the vibration lasted three minutes, and all who experienced the shock agree that, though not severe, the undulatory motion was exceptionally long, and the cause of much anxiety while it lasted.

The first trembling motion was noticed at 3.25 a.m., on Friday, the 10th, which, allowing for our being so much east of Hongkong, would, I think, coincide with about 3 a.m. as given in your account of the affair.

Enclosing my card, and with the suggestion that your Meteorological Department should record, and publish, these phenomena, now that they appear to be developing so rapidly.—Yours, etc.,

SEISMIC.

THE TREATMENT OF OPIUM AT CANTON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Canton, 29th October.

SIR.—Many aver that the Mackay Treaty is a distinct success. Let them crow as lustily over it as they can, but facts, here, are against them, and facts are stubborn things. Here are the Chinese authorities riding their coach and six even when the ink is not yet

dried on the new treaty, and deliberately handing the monopoly on Indian opium to a private Chinese company? They have almost brought this branch of trade to a standstill, but, thanks to the prompt action of our energetic Consul-General, Mr. Scott, it has not altogether been extinguished. May we hope we are not "sold?"—Yours, etc.,

PERPLEXED PARSEE.

THE HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

30th October.

SIR,—I have been expecting to see in your columns a report of the Annual General Meeting of the Jockey Club, which was held in the City Hall on Tuesday last, as has been your custom for many years past. I understand that a reporter of our paper was present and took down a *verbatim* report. I venture to suggest that the proceedings were of sufficient public interest to warrant your making, at all events, a curtailed report.—Yours, etc.,

MEMBER.

[The meeting of the Jockey Club is private, and though in past years permission has been given for the proceedings to be published *verbatim* next day, such was not the case this year.—ED. D.P.]

CHINA BORNEO CO., LD.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held at noon on the 27th ult., in the registered offices of the Company, 4, Queen's Buildings, for the purpose of confirming the resolution passed at the extraordinary general meeting held on the 11th inst. The Hon. C. S. Sharp (Chairman) presided, and the others present were Messrs. W. A. Jupp (Acting Manager), G. C. C. Master, T. H. Reid, Hart Buck, A. G. Wood, J. A. Jupp, J. C. Peter, W. H. Wickham, M. O. A. Baptista, and Leung Shiu Lun.

The notice calling the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN, after expressing regret for the absence of Mr. E. Osborne, the other member of the Consulting Committee, who, he understood, had been summoned on a jury, said:—Gentlemen, the business before us to-day is to submit to you for your confirmation the special resolution which was passed at the extraordinary general meeting of the Company held on 11th instant. Should you confirm this resolution, the Consulting Committee will have the necessary powers to enable them to settle, and to proceed with all possible despatch to carry out, all necessary arrangements and details, etc., connected with the proposed measures. I may here mention for your information that a request has been made by the Borneo Hardwood Co., Ltd., that the proposed new company should continue to have the benefit of the services of Messrs. Wheeley and Darby, who have hitherto been the managers of the China Borneo Co., Ltd., in Hongkong and Borneo respectively, which is quite in accord with our own ideas on the subject, and since last meeting we have been in communication with these two gentlemen, who agree to continue with the new Company. I will now read the resolution, and before formally submitting the same to the meeting I shall be glad to give, as far as I can, any information any shareholders may wish to have regarding the subject matter. The resolution is as follows:—"That it is expedient to effect an amalgamation of this Company with the Borneo Hardwood Company, Limited, of Number 18, Bishopsgate Street Within, in the City of London, and that with a view thereto the Consulting Committee be authorised to confirm the provisional agreement dated 8th day of August, 1902, entered into in London between this Company by Mr. J. M. Wheeley of the one part and the Borneo Hardwood Company, Limited, of the other part, and submitted to this meeting with such modifications and additions as the Consulting Committee may consider will best serve the interests of this Company and to carry the same into effect." As I have already said, before formally submitting the resolution to the meeting I should like to hear any remarks or suggestions that anyone may have to make.

There were no remarks, and the CHAIRMAN

accordingly proposed the confirmation of the resolution as read.

Mr. HART BUCK seconded, and the motion was unanimously agreed to. This was all the business.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 24th October.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE CAINE ROAD TRAGEDY.

Fung Fuk Kwong was charged with having on 5th September, in Caine Road, murdered a man named Pun Sam.

He pleaded not guilty, and was defended by Mr. N. Ferrers, barrister-at-law, the prosecution being conducted by the Attorney-General (Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley), instructed by Mr. H. L. Denny, Acting Crown Solicitor.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. F. A. C. Hahn, A. H. Abbas, J. D. Osmund, A. G. I. Somerville, R. C. Hurley, H. A. Siebs and C. J. T. Lea.

The Attorney-General, in his opening statement, said that on the date in question the deceased man was working along with others on a house in Caine Road. A quarrel occurred between a workman and a watchman and the deceased took the latter's part. The workman went away, and came back with a number of others including the accused, and assaulted Pun Sam, who, as the result of the assault, succumbed. Evidence was taken. Dr. Hunter described the nature of the deceased's injuries and stated that he was suffering at the time of his death from pneumonia and fatty degeneration of the heart.

The jury found the prisoner not guilty on the charge of murder, but guilty of manslaughter.

His Lordship said he quite concurred with that finding.

Sentence was deferred.

Saturday, 25th October.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE CAINE ROAD TRAGEDY.

Fung Fuk Kwong was brought up for sentence.

His Lordship, addressing the prisoner said that this affair had originated in a quarrel about a basket, the value of which was not more than five cents, and out of that trifling matter a good deal of bad blood seemed to have been aroused between the people engaged in building a house next the Italian Convent in Caine Road and one or two people engaged in building another house on the other side of the road. Because a cook is prevented from taking away this five cent basket, a gang of men was called in by the people in the other house to give a beating to the people in the house next the Convent, and in the course of the beating and fighting which ensued a man called Pun Sam was killed. Under certain circumstances that would have been murder. His Lordship had no doubt that the jury had taken into their consideration the fact that the attacking gang brought no weapons with them of any kind, not even bamboo poles, and therefore thought that the attacking gang came only to intimidate and not to kill anybody or to do anybody grievous bodily harm. The jury had found that the prisoner was one of that gang, and he had been identified by three witnesses. Under all the circumstances, his Lordship had agreed with the merciful view that the jury took in finding a verdict of manslaughter instead of murder. But those gangs must be taught that they were not to attack people in a law-abiding place. Taking everything into consideration, he thought the justice of the case would be met by a sentence of five years' hard labour.

The Court adjourned until to-day (Monday), at ten o'clock, when the case in which a contractor who is charged with manslaughter in connection with the fatal collapse of a wall in First Street is down for hearing before the Chief Justice and a special jury.

Monday, 27th October.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE FIRST STREET HOUSE COLLAPSE.

Cheung Hong, contractor, was charged with having, on 29th July caused the death of one Wong Fuk.

He pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. E. Osborne, R. Martin, E. W. Mitchell, H. W. Roberts, G. H. Medhurst, E. A. Hewett, and J. H. Lewis.

The Crown was represented by the Attorney-General (Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley), instructed by Mr. H. L. Denny, Acting Crown Solicitor; Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., appeared for the prisoner, instructed by Mr. P. W. Goldring, solicitor.

The Attorney-General, in his opening statement, said the prisoner was charged with manslaughter, which, as the jury was probably aware, was the unlawful taking of the life of another without excuse and without malice. The difference between murder and manslaughter was this, that, while both were homicide, in the case of manslaughter the element of malice was absent; if malice was present then the killing became murder. Where the case was as here one of omission, there was sometimes a little difficulty, for it was then necessary for the Crown to bring home to the party against whom the omission was charged that he omitted to do that which he was charged with having failed to do. The prisoner was a Chinese contractor. He contracted to pull down and re-erect certain houses in Centre Street and in the course of his work he had to take down the house No. 58, First Street. This was a one-story house built over a narrow lane between the backs of the houses in Centre Street and, among others, the house No. 56, First Street. No. 56 was at that time inhabited by certain people. The charge against the prisoner was that he had failed, in taking down these houses in Centre Street, to take such care and precaution as would render safe the lives of persons inhabiting this house and the houses in the neighbourhood dependent for their support upon the houses that he was pulling down, he being bound to do such acts as would render the safety of the inhabitants absolutely certain. He was charged with having neglected the work in such a way as resulted in the collapse of the western wall of the house No. 56 with the resultant consequences that the second floor kitchen fell down on to the first floor kitchen and buried two men who were in the house at the time. One man lost his life; the other fortunately escaped. It would be quite easy to prove that the prisoner was the contractor. He had admitted that he took down these houses in Centre Street and the house No. 58, First Street; if not now admitted, it would be proved that he took down No. 58 and that, as a result, the western wall of No. 56 fell down: that was the experts' opinion. It would be shown that he inefficiently performed the duty which the law threw upon him as a contractor. It was no excuse to say that somebody, believed to be competent, was appointed to do the work. If a contractor undertook to take down a portion of a building or premises and if he knew that in those premises persons were living, it was no excuse for him to cast the performance of that duty upon another and then say he was sorry that other person had not done exactly what he ought to have done. If he neglected to do that duty and as a consequence of his neglect death ensued he was liable to be charged with manslaughter. The question for the jury to consider would be, first, whether the prisoner did the duty cast upon him of taking down the houses adjacent to No. 56 in such a way as to endanger the lives of persons living in it, and, second, whether he did his duty in such a way as to be guilty of culpable negligence. The evidence would, he believed, bring home to the prisoner the knowledge that there were people living in these houses and that the operation in which he was engaged rendered their position, to say the least of it, hazardous, and that he took no steps to warn them. He was charged with those two acts of negligence: that he did not take sufficient professional means to shore up the wall after taking away the support it had from

the other building and that he did not take the ordinary precaution which every man who had a dangerous piece of work to perform had cast upon him. If a man was engaged in a dangerous operation, it was his bounden duty to take every care to prevent danger to the life of any person who was reasonably supposed to be put in danger by the operation; and he supposed that the accused knew there were persons inhabiting this house and yet took no steps to shore up the building sufficiently. After quoting authorities and precedent on the point of law, the Attorney-General went on to say that he would prove that it was the contractor's duty to provide for the safety of the persons coming within the scope of the operations and that he should have given the persons living in it notice to leave the house unless he could see his way sufficiently to shore up the wall, the support of which he had taken away, in such a manner as to render it reasonably improbable that it would fall. Shores were actually placed, but they were not placed in the right position and were insufficient in number and in material, and an essential part of the wall which ought to have been shored up was not shored. An incompetent man might take down houses for a contractor, but the responsibility was cast by the law upon the contractor.

His Lordship—Was he doing this without any supervision by an architect?

The Attorney-General—Absolutely. I shall prove that the work was carried out without any such supervision.

His Lordship—That is to say, there was an architect employed to prepare the plans to pass the Public Works Department?

The Attorney-General—That was for the re-construction. This happened in the pulling down.

His Lordship—He was the man who undertook this on his own responsibility?

The Attorney-General—Yes. I shall give you evidence to show there were cracks in these walls, plainly visible, which could not but bring home to the mind of a man who had any knowledge of the subject that the wall was in danger; and notwithstanding that those persons were allowed to stay in the house.

His Lordship—You mean to show that these cracks existed at such a time that in shoring the wall he ought to have seen and been warned by them?

The Attorney-General replied in the affirmative. He went on to say that he proposed to put in the deposition of the prisoner before the coroner.

Mr. Sharp said he made no objection to that being done.

His Lordship accordingly admitted the deposition.

The Attorney-General said he desired to propose that the Court should rise and go to see the *locus*.

His Lordship remarked that he did not approve of such procedure on ordinary occasions, but in this case he thought he should make an exception.

The Attorney-General said he would take just the medical evidence before the Court rose.

Dr. E. A. R. Lang, assistant superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital, gave evidence regarding the nature of the injuries from which the man Wong Fuk died. The immediate cause of death was fracture of the spinal column, caused by a heavy weight, such as a wall, falling upon the deceased.

The Court then rose and proceeded in rickshaws to First Street to inspect the *locus*.

Messrs. H. P. Tooe and E. M. Hazeland were sworn and accompanied the party to answer any questions which might be put by his Lordship, it being agreed that no discussion take place and no question be asked except through his Lordship.

The Court resumed after luncheon.

The prisoner's deposition having been read, evidence was called.

Chan Kai, who was in the house 56, First Street when the collapse occurred, was the first witness to be examined. He described how the wall fell upon Wong Fuk and the means taken to rescue him from below the debris.

By his Lordship—The wall of the kitchen fell first, and then the floor of the room above fell down.

Yeu Choong who was in the kitchen when the collapse occurred gave similar evidence.

Sergeant R. Adlington gave an account of the rescue of the deceased from the debris and described the appearance of the house after the collapse.

H. E. Y. Haggard, assistant engineer, P.W.D., put in and proved tracings showing houses in the neighbourhood of the house in which the collapse happened. He stated that he inspected No. 56, First Street on 31st July and found that the western wall had fallen out on to the passage-way of No. 58 and the site of some new houses in Centre Street; the floor of the second story kitchen had fallen down on to the first floor. He was of opinion that the wall fell outwards.

After other evidence, the Court adjourned.

Tuesday, 25th Oct ber.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE FIRST STREET HOUSE COLLAPSE.

P. T. Crisp, inspector of buildings, under examination by the Attorney-General, said he had not previously known the accused, nor had he ever been asked by him to inspect this house. On 17th June he got a chit from Mr. Tooker to go down to Centre Street to see if the new houses had been started. He found that the new houses had not been commenced and reported accordingly to the office; he did not see No. 56, First Street. At that time the old houses were in the course of demolition.

Cross-examined by Mr. Sharp, K.C.—So far as the P.W.D. was concerned, it was his duty to inspect dangerous buildings. He saw shoring at this place. He supposed he should inspect any shoring that he saw, but if he did so he would never get out of Queen's Road. On this occasion, he did not inspect the shoring, as he had not time to do so; he had other work to do, and thought it could stand over until another day. The pressure of shoring against a wall did not necessarily mean that the wall was an old one. Sometimes shoring was put up against a perfectly sound, new wall.

By His Lordship—Of late he had been assisted in the inspection of buildings by Mr. Haggard, who, however, had a good deal of office work to do and really could not help very much.

Mr. E. Osborne foreman of the jury—Will witness tell the jury what qualifications he has for the position of inspector of buildings?

Witness—I was head draughtsman in Messrs. George Trollope & Sons, one of the largest building firms in London.

Mr. Osborne—As inspector of dangerous buildings, does the witness not consider it part of his general duty when a house is being pulled down to see that the adjoining houses are properly shored up?

Witness—Well, of course, it is part of my duty, I admit, but if you saw the number of chits I have every morning to attend to you would be surprised how I get through the chits at all without looking at shoring. I get chits from the police and the Sanitary department, and anonymous letters, and if I let these things get behind I would never get through.

Mr. Osborne—But, being on the spot, it would not take very much longer for any one who went down to inspect the building to see that it was properly shored and do the job thoroughly.

His Lordship—What is your salary, Mr. Crisp?

Witness—\$150, with compensation.

His Lordship—That is 150 three-shilling dollars?

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Osborne—The jury would like to know whether the witness was specially engaged by the Government for the work?

Witness—I shall have been two years in the service of the Government next November. I was engaged from Messrs. Trollope & Sons' office to come out to Hongkong for three years, and they were willing to take me back at the end of that time.

His Lordship—Were you engaged as inspector of buildings?

Witness—I was engaged as clerk of the works on a Government building. My agreement says nothing about the inspection of buildings.

His Lordship—On what building; does it say on what building?

The Attorney-General—The Supreme Court? (Laughter.)

Witness—No; they could not tell me what building it was going to be.

The Attorney-General—I think you are sent here and there by your superior officers? On the day in question you were sent down to look at this particular job, and you went and did it?

Witness—Yes.

Mr. J. H. Lewis—Does the witness take it that when he has got specific orders to go and do a certain duty he is to do nothing else that might come under his notice?

His Lordship—Well, in this case all one can say is that it is unfortunate that he did not inspect the shoring, or that his special attention had not been called to it; he went down to see a certain thing and found that that thing had not been begun.

The Attorney-General—My point is that Mr. Crisp is an exceedingly busy man. He went to do one thing and did not attempt to do anything else. He did not see the house No. 56, or did not notice it.

Witness—I may state that the shoring was not really up at the time of my visit. They were putting it up, but it was not completed. It was in course of construction. It was utterly useless to inspect it while it was being built.

Mr. Sharp—That is new.

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Sharp—Then you saw some of the shoring fired and some of it being fixed?

Witness—Yes, from the other end of the houses.

Mr. Sharp—But it is a fact that the shoring was actually being put up and that you made no enquiry as to the reason why it was being put up?

Witness—Had I passed I would very likely have given it a glance.

Mr. Sharp—Your duties are those of building inspector?

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Sharp—And does this diary of yours [diary produced] show the inspections which you make as inspector of dangerous walls?

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Sharp—I have been looking through this, and I find that they do not seem to average more than three per day. Sometimes there are only two, sometimes one, and never more than six. Surely you are able to keep pace with that bulk of work.

Witness—The time I spend in travelling has to be counted.

Mr. Sharp—But let that be as it is. Many days there are only two entries, and never more than six.

Witness—I have about two hours in the office besides, and if you add up the time taken up in travelling it gives a full day.

His Lordship—You have to go back to the office and report?

Witness—I have to go back and write out the reports.

His Lordship—And before you start you have two hours of office work?

Witness—Sometimes one hour, sometimes one and a half, sometimes two hours.

His Lordship—Then your work is regulated by the chits you receive?

Witness—Yes; if I have no chits I inspect new buildings; if I have, I leave these alone.

Mr. Osborne—Has the witness ever reported to his superior officers that he had more work than he was able to perform?

Witness—I have on several occasions.

The Attorney-General—I understand that you cannot go away and do what you like, but that your work is mapped out for you?

Witness—It is mapped out for me by the chits. If I answer these chits I have done my duty for the day.

The Attorney-General—He follows his instructions and he has done his duty.

His Lordship—Can you give me any idea of the number of works last year; that is, new houses and the various things you had to attend to coming under this definition? I take it that that means the demolition of houses?

Witness—I could not give you the exact figure; it was some thousands. There were 2,000 new houses being erected.

The Attorney-General—There were 2,860 new houses being erected last year.

Witness—Yes; and I dare say there were about 3,000 houses being altered.

F. T. H. Hewitt, R.E., gave technical evidence, he having visited the scene of the collapse in the beginning of September. He was of opinion that the wall of the first-floor kitchen fell out first and that in consequence of this wall falling out the floor of the upper kitchen fell down.

By His Lordship—If he had been contractor for the taking down of those houses, he would certainly have put in a different class of shoring and possibly in different positions.

This closed the evidence for the Crown.

Mr. Sharp, in opening the case for the defence, said he proposed to tell the jury very shortly what was their explanation of the way in which the collapse occurred, reserving until afterwards any further remarks or argument. But at the outset he would ask the jury to carefully distinguish between this case and the recent long series of collapses of new buildings in the Colony. This case had been generally spoken of and regarded, he thought, as one of that series of collapses which naturally the general public had not taken the trouble to distinguish between; and it had been generally thought that this was the first of the series of collapses which had come before the Court and unusual attention had therefore been drawn to it. He submitted that this case was entirely different from practically all the other cases in the series of collapses which had occurred during the past wet season. These were practically all cases of collapses of new buildings, completed or in course of erection; and for the condition of such buildings occasioning collapse—of course the weather was, he supposed, the immediate accelerating cause—no doubt the contractor was primarily responsible. If the work or material was *prima facie* defective, the contractor in these cases was no doubt responsible. But this wall was an old wall. For the condition of that wall and the material of which it was built, it was not pretended that the defendant was in any way responsible. He had nothing to do with the defects in that wall. He was not responsible for them being there and had nothing to do with them in any way unless they were such defects as he ought reasonably to have discovered on an ordinary external inspection of the wall. That was to say, if the defects in this wall had led to the collapse, the defendant was in no way responsible whatever in the matter, unless it could be shown beyond all reasonable doubt that it was his work that he was doing next door that caused it. The only connection between this case and the series of collapses of new buildings this year was that they happened about the same time. That of course was due to the phenomenal weather we had had for two and a half months before the collapse, and it was extremely unfortunate for the defendant that the accident happened when it did—that was to say, when those other collapses occurred—because, as he had said, it had drawn an amount of attention to this case, which there was no question at all would not otherwise have been drawn to it. As to the facts, they were largely in agreement with the facts which had been laid before the Court, but they took the story one step farther back, as shown by the evidence of people both inside and outside the house, who saw all that occurred, what portion of the wall went first, and in what direction it went. The defence accepted the evidence that had been given, except that of one or two people who were in the house. But in carrying the story one step farther back and showing why that happened which did happen, their evidence would be entirely opposed to the theory of the prosecution. That was the theory evolved by men who visited the site after the collapse and, finding the debris outside in the lane, assumed, in the absence of any other evidence, that the wall had collapsed outwards and that the debris had fallen immediately into the position in which it was found. Two of the witnesses called by the Crown as having been in the house when the collapse occurred were not in a position to see the whole wall that collapsed. Of course at the Coroner's enquiry no evidence was called by the defence at all, because at that time nobody was charged.

The Attorney-General—Of course they were at liberty to give evidence.

Mr. Sharp replied that the Chinese were not given to rushing into Court. The story of the defence was that the second story portion of the wall fell first. They had the evidence of a good many witnesses, most of them entirely disinterested, and that would show that this part fell first. The top part of the wall fell inwards, that was towards the east, and not outwards, as had been assumed. It fell in and all that followed was a consequence of that. Practically that gave the jury the whole explanation. The weight of this portion of the wall was some four or five tons. It fell on the floor which admittedly was not in a very sound condition. It drove that floor into a position diagonally across the kitchen below, the lower end being towards the west; the brick work tumbled after it and as it got into that sloping position it was quite clear—in fact one witness said he actually saw it—that the brick work which had fallen upon the sloping floor went in an avalanche down that floor and knocked up against the wall of the first-floor kitchen, which gave way and let the debris shoot out into the lane and spread a little bit over the adjoining site. If there had been a brick pier under this floor it was quite likely that the floor would have withstood the weight of the falling debris. Witnesses would be called who were on the top floor of the house when the collapse occurred and on the neighbouring site of the Centre Street houses which had been demolished, who were in a position to see from the outside the whole of this wall simultaneously and to say which part fell first. That being so, he thought it would be made perfectly clear by expert evidence that the collapse could not by any possibility have been caused by the removal of the support. The collapse was produced at the time that the support was taken away, but the wall fell in the opposite direction to that in which it was shored up to prevent falling, and besides this portion of the wall was clearly external and always had been external. So there was no question of the exposure of an internal wall.

Lei Tak, painter, was the first witness called for the defence. On the date of the collapse he was living on the second floor of 56, First Street. He was sitting in the passage a short distance from the kitchen when he got the first intimation of the collapse: he heard a noise. There was nobody in the kitchen. The noise proceeded from the direction of the kitchen. He stood up and then saw bricks and mortar dropping down on to the kitchen floor. A great quantity fell. These came from the western wall. Owing to the weight of the falling material the floor of the kitchen fell down. He could see the western wall of the kitchen wall. The debris from the upper kitchen knocked against the wall and the force knocked that wall out into the lane. He afterwards ran down into the street.

Cross-examined—The reason he did not give evidence before the Coroner was that he was not asked by anyone to do so. He came forward now because Mr. Sharp asked him. The wall of this kitchen did not fall inwards because the lower portion bulged out.

Chang Kew, mother of the last witness, gave evidence of a corroborative kind.

Li Tsun, plumber, deposed that he was, at the time of the collapse, on the site of the Centre Street houses looking at some old pipes he wanted to buy. While standing there he heard a noise coming from the direction of 56, First Street, and on looking up at the wall he saw the wall of the second floor fall inward into the kitchen. The floor of the top-floor kitchen dropped down in a sloping direction and the brick which went down together with this floor shot out into the lane. The bottom part of the wall came outwards.

Cross-examined—He had not attended the Coroner's enquiry because he did not know the Coroner required his attendance; he had his own business to attend to, and he was never sent for.

Tung Kwan, scaffolding contractor, 48, First Street, said that the scaffolding work in connection with the new houses in Centre Street was done by his firm. Witness supervised the erection of the shoring. Subsequently, defendant came to the shop and said that the typhoon signal was up and he wanted the shoring at No. 56 to be made safe.

Lai Yam, accountant with the scaffolding

firm, said that the original contract price was fixed at \$110; the extra shoring cost \$40, and was to be placed against the western wall of No. 56.

Cross-examined—The reason he did not attend the enquiry was that he did not know it was going on.

The mistress of the scaffolding firm corroborated.

J. Orange, civil engineer and architect, of the firm of Leigh & Orange, said he had had experience of the Colony since 1883. He had visited the scene of the collapse several times since it happened. He found that the whole of the west wall of the first and second floors had gone. He considered that the shores placed against the wall were sufficient to replace the support that had been removed, judging from the external appearance of the wall. This wall was not a well built wall; it was practically in two parts, with a hollow space between; it was not properly boarded. These defects could not have been observed from an external examination. Apart from those defects the wall should have stood; the thickness was quite adequate for the height. He noticed nothing unusual in the way of cracks in the wall. A house might have a crack and yet be perfectly strong. There was no disturbance in the western wall attributable to the operations in Centre Street. The foundations had not been affected. His explanation of how the thing occurred was that the wall was weakened by the phenomenal wind and rain in June and July. At any time, under these circumstances, a sudden gust of wind might cause the western wall to fall inward; the weight of the wall falling in on to the floor would cause the floor to fall, and the western part, receiving the greater part of the debris, would fall first; and the descending debris would force out the first-floor kitchen and shoot it into the lane. That was his theory, and it seemed reasonable looking at the present position of the wall. The western wall of the second floor kitchen—the portion which fell first—had to all appearance always been an external wall. If the wall had fallen outward, he did not see how the floor would not have stood in the same way as the roof had done. He believed that several old houses had collapsed during the past wet season. On the day previous to the collapse there was a rainfall of 3.235 in., accompanied by a westerly wind of 19.2 miles average force. The shoring up of a dangerous wall was work of a kind that Chinese contractors were well accustomed to, and work which they did uncommonly well.

Cross-examined—The rain driven by the wind on to this wall would soften and weaken the bricks and mortar. If after the collapse the bricks and mortar were found to be hard that would be against the wind-and-rain theory. He could not say why one portion of the wall should fall, as the result of the wind and rain, more than another.

The Attorney-General—Are you not rather interested in this wind-and-rain theory?

Witness—No, indeed.

The Attorney-General—Did you not have a whole set of your houses collapse?

Witness—No.

The Attorney-General—Is not there an enquiry going on just now with regard to the collapse of your houses in Kowloon City Road?

Witness—It was not a set of houses, but one wall in a block of houses.

The Attorney-General—You were the architect for 30, Kowloon City Road?

Witness—Yes.

The Attorney-General—And there was a collapse on 18th July?

Witness—I cannot speak as to the date.

The Attorney-General—You were the architect?

Witness—Our firm was.

The Attorney-General—I want to know whether your firm is interested in supporting the wind-and-rain theory? This house in Kowloon City Road fell and killed ten people?

Witness—Yes.

The Attorney-General—And did not another of your houses on the Praya fall in August and kill some other people?

Witness—Yes.

The Attorney-General—Are you not prepared to suggest that the wind and rain brought them down?

Witness—I am not prepared to put forward any theory.

The Attorney-General—I suppose you will have to when these cases are enquired into.

Witness—No doubt one of the members of our firm will look after that.

His Lordship—I would not press that matter farther, Mr. Attorney.

By his Lordship—In his opinion as an architect, if he had had the pulling down of the Centre Street houses and therefore the taking down of the wall of No. 58, First Street, he would have considered a vertical shoring sufficient unless he had noticed that the adjoining wall was showing signs of weakness, when probably he would have placed sloping shores against the wall.

A. Turner, architect, gave evidence corroborative of that of the previous witness. He considered the supports put up against the wall which collapsed were amply sufficient to replace the support taken away.

The Court afterwards adjourned.

Wednesday, 29th October.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH GOODMAN
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE FIRST STREET HOUSE COLLAPSE.

The evidence having been completed on the previous day.

His Lordship said he proposed to put to the jury first a ruling of law and then ask them to answer four questions, in their own way, and if any of these questions were answered in the negative, they must find the man not guilty. The proposition of law was: Having regard to the nature of the work undertaken by the accused and the age and apparent condition of the houses adjacent to those he undertook to pull down, it was his legal duty to use reasonable skill and precautions to prevent damage to these houses and their inhabitants. Then he proposed to put these four questions: (1) Was the deceased man Wong Fuk killed by the collapse of the wall at No. 58, First Street? (2) Did the accused fail to use such reasonable skill and precautions as it was his duty to use? (3) Was it owing to the want of the use of such reasonable skill and precautions that the wall collapsed? and (4) If so, did the omission to use such reasonable skill and precautions amount to criminal negligence? With regard to "criminal negligence," his Lordship said he proposed to adopt the words of Justice Blackburn, who stated (Reg. v. Fyfe, Foulson's Report, p. 57) that "criminal negligence" is a phrase constantly used in criminal cases, but the amount of negligence that would make a man so responsible cannot be defined. It is not a little failure in duty that would make him criminally responsible. A great failure of duty undoubtedly would. The line between the two is hard to define, and must be left to a great extent in each individual case to the common sense of the jury whether or not the degree of failure of duty is criminal. His Lordship proposed to tell the jury that if they answered all the four questions in the affirmative, then it was their duty to find the prisoner guilty; if they answered any one of these questions in the negative or if they had a reasonable doubt whether the prisoner was guilty or not, it was their duty to find him not guilty.

In reply to Mr. Sharp.

His Lordship said he had had in mind the question whether the alleged criminal negligence was defendant's or somebody else's and he thought that was covered in the questions he had just read.

Mr. Sharp, in addressing the jury, stated that they would have to be satisfied that this wall fell through the defendant's criminal negligence in not adequately supplying support to replace that which he took away by the demolition of the next house, before they could find him guilty. This divided itself into four questions, which were practically those which his Lordship had already indicated. The first was: Is the jury satisfied in the first instance that the wall fell outwards and not inwards? The whole case turned upon that question. They had to be satisfied, in order to convict the prisoner, that the wall fell outwards, not inwards. If the jury decided that question in the affirmative, then there arose the question: Is the jury satisfied that the falling outwards of

the wall was caused by an insufficiency of shoring to replace the support which had been taken away? If they should decide both these questions against the defendant, there was the third: Is the defendant responsible in law for the insufficient shoring? And, of course, was a question very largely for his Lordship. The defence said that he was not responsible, and that if anybody was it was the shoring contractor. If the jury decided all three questions against the defendant a fourth arose: Did the insufficient shoring show negligence so gross and reckless as to justify a conviction upon the very serious charge of manslaughter. Mr. Sharp went on to refer at length to authorities bearing on the case.

The Attorney-General having also addressed the jury.

His Lordship summed up. He reviewed the deposition of the defendant made before the Coroner and afterwards the evidence of the various witnesses before the Court. In addition to that evidence, he said, there was the evidence of experts; with regard to that the jury would have to decide whether it was the evidence of unbiassed witnesses or that of men who had gone to the scene of the collapse with preconceived ideas of how the thing happened. Without in any way casting any reflection upon the gentlemen who had come forward and given expert evidence in this case his Lordship reminded the jury that it was a well-known fact that two bodies of eminent experts would often come forward in a case and support two entirely different views. It was for the jury to decide between the falling-in and the falling-out theories. If they were of opinion that this wall fell inwards, then he thought it was not contended on the part of the Crown that the collapse arose in any way from defective shoring. All the shoring put up on the outside of the wall would not have prevented it falling inwards. Therefore, if they found that the wall fell inwards, it seemed to his Lordship that there was an end of the case; on the other hand, if they came to the conclusion that they were satisfied that the falling-out theory was the proper solution of the matter, they must say how that came about. If they considered that the wall fell because of defective shoring, then they would have to consider if the blame, or what blame, was attributable to the prisoner in regard to that defective shoring. It had been contended for the defence that if he employed somebody else to do the shoring there was no further responsibility upon him with regard to it. His Lordship said he might tell the jury that he did not accept that. If a person was engaged to take down certain houses adjoining old houses he was going to undertake a dangerous work, and if he was not competent to do it himself he must engage a skilled architect or contractor who could competently undertake it. The proposition of the law that his Lordship laid down to the jury was that the contractor did not get out of the responsibility by employing another man to do the shoring. It was his business to see that the shoring was properly done. The question as to whether the shoring was proper was a question for the jury. Mr. Turner, he thought it was, had stated that he did not think the shoring was necessary. Certainly he did not agree with the man himself, because the contractor distinctly said it was necessary: "I shored up the wall because the typhoon signal was raised in any case shoring would have been necessary." When "doctors disagreed" it was of course for the jury to take their own course in deciding the question. His Lordship concluded by again reading the proposition of law and the four questions which are given above and which he had intimated he would leave to the jury. It was not necessary, he informed the jury, for them to answer the questions in writing; it was sufficient for them to return their verdict.

The jury retired at 2.40 p.m., and re-entered the court at 3 o'clock.

The Foreman (Mr. E. Osborne) intimated the verdict. He said—We find unanimously the prisoner is not guilty; and with your Lordship's permission we desire to record the following opinion: that the supervision at present exercised by the Public Works Department over the demolition, erection and alteration of buildings is inadequate.

His Lordship—I may tell you, gentlemen of the jury, that what you say will be taken to the

proper quarters. But of course this is a particular case and not a general investigation into the collapse of houses. The prisoner has been found not guilty, and he is entitled to be discharged.

The prisoner was discharged.

The Court adjourned.

SPORTING NOTES.

(Daily Press, 25th October.)

To-day finds Hongkong sportsmen busy chiefly with cricket and football, interesting games being promised both on the Cricket Ground and at the Happy Valley. The team to represent the H.K.C.C. v. the Navy, should, judging only by last Saturday's match, render a very good account of itself, though room might possibly with advantage have been found for Dixon's bowling. With Fawcett, France-Hyhurst, Powell, Pearce, and Smith, however, the Club has a good deal of variety in a tack, while the batting strength on paper looks sufficient for a good score. In minor cricket the match between the Craigenower C.C. and the returned Volunteer Coronation contingent should furnish an interesting struggle. A healthy variety of matches is all that is wanted to inspire life into what we may call the second-class cricket teams in Hongkong, and this season has started well in that respect.

The H.K.A.F.C. in countering the holders of the Challenge Shield to-day have taken on a stiff task, and a victory for the Fusiliers seems natural. The Club's form against the 62nd Co., R.A., last week was not very encouraging, and a good deal of alteration will be required if they are to do as well as last year. It is too early to speak of Shield prospects yet, but the departure of the R.W.F. teams will make the competition to all appearances very open. Judging by the six-a-side games there is a lot of promising material in the Club, but that of course is very different from the essential part of a Shield team. The six-a-side competition is drawing to its close, and the meeting next Wednesday of Messrs Rutherford's and Wolfe's teams is being looked forward to with unusual interest, both sides having done remarkably well. If anything, Wolfe's men are now the favourites.

The committee of the Polo Club have decided to play during the winter months on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday in order to give the civilian members a chance of playing on Saturday, the only day they can make certain of getting away in time. Lately attendance of playing members has been slack, especially amongst the military element, but now that the new regiment has arrived there may be some new blood. In fact now is the time to sell at a profit. Only this week I heard some fat prices offered for not the best ponies on the ground. The committee have also made arrangements for a band to attend twice a month, beginning in December, and hope thereby to entice down the non-playing members—not forgetting the ladies, whose presence would very soon lead to a large increase of members and encourage a spirit of enterprise in the Club. It is hoped the Club may be able to arrange matches on these dates to enliven proceedings.

Owners of China ponies need not despair, as I hear that one of the Kowloon regiments intend to start chukars for this now much despised animal and have actually imported a dozen of them into the Colony; the scheme would succeed if enough admirers of the beast could be found but, alas! where are they? I hope soon to be able to chronicle the results of a few matches, which do more than all to encourage those who play to improve and those who don't to try their hand at this kind of games.

The first scratch race of the season will be held by the Hongkong Boat Club on Saturday, the 15th November, and those who wish to take part therein will do well to sign their names on the list placed for that purpose in the Club's dressing-room. It is probable that in the event of a sufficient number of griffins entering this event will be reserved entirely for griffins, thus leaving the more experienced oarsmen at liberty to impart instruction from the coxswain's seat.

[The Boat Club's boxing class will be resumed on the 3rd of November, and continued for two days a week between the hours of 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. during the winter months. Numerically the class bids fair to be much stronger than last year and with the knowledge born of experience a set of rules is being drafted, which it is hoped will smooth the conduct of these exhibitions of the science of self-defence. Two other days in the week have been set apart for the gymnastic classes, which will also commence the week after next.

The results of the Wigwam Club's lawn-tennis singles have already been recorded in these columns. The doubles are still unfinished. Woodgates is to be congratulated on his victory in the "A" Class handicap. He won his early rounds in crushing style, and it was felt that Yeats was asked to concede him too much in the final.

The Golf Club's quarterly meeting, in spite of being cut down to three days only, was very successful. W. D. Kraft did his best to monopolise the prizes, winning one and trying for the other two; he has been playing steadily and well of late and deserved his success. It will have been noticed that three men from the 15 strokes handicap mark—Messrs. Saunders, Ram, and Kraft—all put in a 95 for the MacEwen Cup and so tied with a nett score of 80.

(Daily Press, 1st November.)

The election of Stewards for the ensuing year at the annual general meeting of the Hongkong Jockey Club was a great triumph for the "progressives," whose candidates secured a large majority of votes. I hear that the proceedings at the meeting were very interesting, and the desire has been expressed by many of the members that the report should be published, as in former years. The Jockey Club, however, not being a public concern, is perfectly within its rights in refusing publicity to its meetings. It is a question of policy, about which non-members have nothing to say. But it seems likely that the Jockey Club's general meeting of 1902 will have great influence on the future history of the Club. A majority of experts among the Stewards should certainly be able to guide the Club along the right path.

The Hongkong team's score on Wednesday in the Imperial Rifle Match (which is open to teams from any Corps throughout the British Empire and teams of any Rifle Association in Ceylon, Hongkong, Singapore, the Channel Islands, the West Indies, and Fiji) was disappointing, although we have been led to expect a deterioration in Hongkong shooting this year. But a drop from the excellent 943 of last year to Wednesday's 825 is indeed lamentable. Of last year's team Marshall and Wake (who each put together 101), McLennan, Wallace, McDermott, and McKenzie were missing this year, but Lammert, who shot on Wednesday, would have been in the 1901 team had he been available. Colour-Sergt. Cross, who headed the list on Wednesday with a score of 96, was only bracketed sixth last year with 95. Again in 1901 there were only two score between 80 and 90; this year there were only four above 90. The Nursery Cup and Spoons will be competed for this afternoon at 2.30 by the local Rifle Club.

The Hockey Club is looking up this season and the membership is now nearly 100. The ground is in splendid condition, and a successful season is anticipated. The Club has so far done badly as a team, losing two matches and drawing one, but these games have been more in the shape of trials to new members, &c., and the real hard work will begin when the Shield Competition starts in December. Six teams have already entered, and as the competition is to be worked on the League principle, plenty of exciting matches will be witnessed, besides which the interest will, by this method, be maintained to the end of the contest. The Club is fortunate in possessing an energetic Hon. Sec. and a keen Committee, and we wish them all success in their new venture. A match will be played next Tuesday, between the Civilian and Service members of the Club, when sides will be selected from the following:—Civilians:

Messrs. Boggan, Chard, Chater, Dow, Gale, Gray, Hooper (capt.), Murphy, Roberts, Tyack, Tyrwhitt, Whitlow, Wodehouse, and Yeats. Services: Lt. Solfeet, Messrs. Carter, Meeson, Parker, and Dr. Dartnell, R.N., Major Bewley, R.A.M.C., Lt. Quennell, A.O.D., Capt. Dykes, and Talloch, Lts. Bland, Spencer, and Thornhill, R.A., and Lts. Campbell and Benton, R.E. When the Shield competition comes on the Club will have to rely on its Civilian members and on the Tamar contingent, so that it would be well if in future matches less recourse, if any, were had to the military element.

An innovation will take place in the V.R.C. regatta this year; in fact in the place of the usual regatta held by that Club a regatta will be held by the V.R.C. and the Hongkong Boat Club together. A joint meeting of the committees of both clubs having been held, the proposal which came from the older club has been agreed to and a sub-committee appointed to draw up a programme. At the meeting the Honourable F. H. May, who as chairman of both clubs presided, made the handsome offer of a cup to be rowed for at Hongkong by any club in the Far East; the cup to become the property of any club who should win it three times in succession, or five times in all; but as some difficulties were pointed out the conditions were left to stand over for future discussion. As the rules of the regatta will enable each crew to be entirely drawn from one club alone, there will probably be no mixing, and nearly all the events will probably to a certain extent partake of the nature of a test of the superiority in oarsmanship between the two clubs. This should add considerable interest to the events and the regatta will probably attract much more attention than in past years. Last year saw the first challenge race for the clubs—an event won somewhat easily by the Boat Club—and it was expected to become an annual fixture, but owing to the reasons above mentioned the *raison d'être* of a challenge race would now be wanting. It would seem advisable therefore to hold the challenge races at a later date, say two months; this would also have the advantage of sustaining interest in the sport over a longer period than has hitherto been the practice.

The Northern autumn race season is upon us now, with the Shanghai Meeting on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday next, and the Tientsin Meeting on the same days. In the South, too, racing has been exciting interest. The Singapore Sporting Club has just concluded its autumn meeting. When we read a remark like the following (which we take from a Singapore paper) we may perhaps feel glad that we have not introduced professionalism in Hongkong racing:—"Turning to the running of Yorkshire on the first day and considering the weights and distance with yesterday's, we don't wonder that many people were saying very hard things about the running of some of our erratic horses." Yorkshire won the Tauglin Cup on the second day, backers receiving a 824 dividend.

Kobe is to be congratulated on its success in the interport games v. Yokohama. Not only was the cricket match won by a handsome margin of 5 wickets (due to the fine all-round play of W. D. S. Edwards and a not-out century from H. Hancock, brother of Hongkong's interport cricketer), but both the baseball games and the lawn-tennis also fell to Kobe. Yokohama still leads in the cricket match series by 8 wins to 6 and two draws, but Kobe has not been beaten since 1899.

OMPAX.

We regret to have to chronicle the death of another old resident in China in the person of Mr. Albino da Silveira, who died on Thursday at Macao at the advanced age of 79 years. The deceased gentleman was employed in the Union Insurance Society of Canton as bookkeeper for many years in Shanghai and Hongkong and retired on pension some years ago. He was highly regarded by his employers and by every one who had the pleasure of knowing him. Mr. Silveira was a widower, and had a daughter who was a sister of charity. He was a Knight Commander of the Portuguese Order of Christ and we understand that he also held an order conferred on him by Pope Leo XIII.

CRICKET.

H.K.C.C. v. THE NAVY.

The Club played their first Naval match of the present season on the 25th ult., and a very interesting game it proved to be though the loss of a valuable 45 minutes at the beginning of the day prevented the match from being brought to a definite conclusion. It seems to be getting quite the rule now-a-days to start 40 minutes to an hour late. This is greatly to be deplored, especially at this time of the year when the days are so short, as it gives such a very brief time for actual play. It is particularly hard, too, on those who make it their business to be on the ground punctually, as they necessarily have to await the arrival of the late-comers. It is to be hoped that the Committee of the Club will try and devise some means of obtaining greater punctuality, or, if that is impossible, arrange for the matches to be finished on Monday afternoons. Ward again won the toss and sent in Wynne and Turner to face the bowling of Toulmin and Silver. Turner played good cricket, but the Major did not appear comfortable and made several dangerous strokes. However, Turner was the first to leave, being beautifully caught at square leg for a capital 17. Fawcett followed but immediately lost Wynne who was caught off a miss-hit. Maitland then came in, but did not seem at all at home, his injured hand doubtless bothering him a good deal; he, also, had to play mostly against Toulmin who was keeping a very good length. Meanwhile Fawcett was very busy and hit brilliantly. Through a misunderstanding between two of the fielding side he was let off once, but otherwise gave no chance. He hit no less than eleven 4's in his innings of 52, eight of them coming in succession. He was eventually bowled just before 1 o'clock. Smith then joined Maitland, and these two were together when the tiffin bell rang, the score then being 119. On resuming Maitland was immediately caught, only having added two to his score, and retired for a useful though rather fluky 32. Hayhurst, who came next, soon settled down to play his usual sound game but lost the assistance of Smith almost at once as the latter was smartly taken at the wicket. Ward followed and the score mounted rapidly, both batsmen hitting. Ward was very fortunate early in his innings as he was twice badly missed by that usually safe catch, G. Moore, and he also gave a very difficult chance at the wicket. Hayhurst was caught when he had made 41; the vigour of his hitting may be gauged by the fact that he sent the ball out of the ground no less than four times. On Hooper joining Ward, another stand was made, though the latter did most of the scoring. With 250 on the board Ward was bowled by a ball that he never attempted to play, the batsman evidently thinking it was off the wicket; his 61 contained three 6's (one the result of an overthrow) and seven 4's. It being then past 3 o'clock, and only 2 hours being left for play, Ward declared the Club's innings closed with the total at 253 for 3 wickets. Mahon was the most successful of the Naval bowlers, taking 4 wickets for 45 runs. Toulmin bowled well at first, but did not seem to relish the hitting of Hayhurst and Ward. The fielding was scarcely up to the standard that is expected of a Naval team, though several men did well. Garde and Pringle opened the batting for the Navy to the bowling of Fawcett and Hayhurst. Pringle did not stay long, being palpably out of form, but Garde soon settled down and played excellent cricket. G. Moore, who followed Pringle, hit with his usual vigour, though he appeared to play a more careful game than is his wont and treated Hayhurst's slows with some respect. With the score at 46, Garde was caught by Wynne for a capital 27 and Toulmin came in. After making 44, in which were seven 4's, Moore was clean bowled by Hayhurst. Mahon, who followed, being apparently "under orders," departed from his usual style of play and was content with keeping up his wicket. Eventually, however, he was tempted by one of Hayhurst's insidious slows and mis-hitting it was caught by Ward. Several of the other batsmen got into double figures but none with, perhaps, the exception of Bird, showed much form. Meanwhile time was getting on

and the Club were making strenuous efforts to win the match. But for one or two mistakes in the field, they might have accomplished their desire; as it was they had to content themselves with a "moral victory." Great credit is due to Lewin and Meaden for keeping up their wickets under somewhat trying circumstances. Thus the match ended in a draw, very much in favour of the Club it is true but, nevertheless, creditable to the Navy. Of the Club bowlers, Pearce came out with the best analysis and bowled well. Hayhurst bowled better than he has done this season, while Fawcett was not quite so good as usual. The Club fielding was fair, Turner again being especially noticeable. Ward, however, missed a catch at a critical stage of the game and seemed to have great difficulty in properly gathering the ball. During the afternoon the massed bands of the Fleet, through the kindness of the Rear-Admiral and officers played an excellent selection. There were a good many spectators present who watched the game with interest and it was pleasant to see the fair sex so well represented.

Major Wynne, R.A., c Barnby, b Mahon	7
W. C. D. Turner, c Barnby, b Mahon	17
Capt. Fawcett, R.A., b Toulmin	52
F. Maitland, c Meaden, b Toulmin	32
Lt. H. W. Smith, R.A., c Garde, b Silver	9
T. E. Pearce, c Pringle, b Toulmin	8
Lt. France-Hayhurst, R.W.F., c Silver, b Mahon	11
A. G. Ward (Capt.), b Mahon	61
J. Hooper, not out	12
H. Warren, did not bat	
Lt. Venables, R.W.F., did not bat	
Extras	14

Total (innings declared) 253

THE NAVY.

R. B. Garde, R.N., c Wynne, b Hayhurst	27
C. H. McPringle, R.N., b Fawcett	0
G. Moore, R.N., b Hayhurst	41
Lt. Toulmin, R.M.L.I., c Smith, b Pearce	3
Lt. Mahon, R.N., c Ward, b Hayhurst	17
Lt. Bird, R.M.L.I., st Smith, b Hayhurst	15
Lt. Barnby, R.M.L.I., b Fawcett	16
Rev. C. Moore, R.N., c Wynne, b Pearce	15
A. P. Silver, R.N., c Ward, b Pearce	9
Lt. Lewin, R.N., not out	13
Staff-Sergt. Meaden, R.N., not out	3
Extras	1

Total 166

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

H.K.C.C.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Toulmin	23	6	87	3
Silver	10.1	3	51	1
Mahon	9.2	2	45	4
Moore (G.)	4	—	26	—
Meaden	3	—	12	—
Barnby	3	—	22	—
Pringle	1	—	3	—

THE NAVY.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Fawcett	15	3	56	2
Hayhurst	20	2	80	1
Pearce	9	2	20	3
Turner	4	1	6	—

CRAIGENGOWER C.C. v. H.K.V.C. CORONATION CONTINGENT.

The cricket match on the 25th ult. played between the Craigenower Cricket Club and the Hongkong Volunteer Coronation Contingent resulted in favour of the former by 38 runs. Scores:—

CRAIGENGOWER CRICKET CLUB.

I. L. Stuart, c Ellis, b Herton	4
R. Pestonji, b R. Witchell	0
A. O. Brown, l.b.w. b R. Witchell	25
M. H. Harteam, c Lammert, b R. Witchell	4
R. Basa, b Herton	15
J. D. Kinnard, run out	5
J. H. Ruttonjee, c Herton, b Witchell	13
E. Ford, c Lammert, b Herton	0
A. E. Asger, c Lammert, b Witchell	13
F. Rapp, b Witchell	3
L. Vincenot, not out	1
Extras	9

Total 92

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORONATION CONTINGENT.

M. E. Asger, c Pestonji, b Harteam	0
I. Witchell, b Harteam	19
R. Witchell, b Harteam	6
L. E. Lammert, b Pestonji	0
L. A. Rose, not out	22
E. R. Herton, b Harteam	0
L. E. Edwards, run out	0
C. Leykum, b Pestonji	0
H. W. Sayer, b Pestonji	0
C. E. Ellis, b Pestonji	1
E. Sayer (substitute), b Pestonji	2
Extras	4

Total 54

FOOTBALL.

H.K.F.C. v. "A" CO., R.W.F.

This match was played in fine weather at Happy Valley on the 25th ult., before a fair turn-out of spectators. Additional interest was imparted to the game by reason of the fact that "A" Co. won the Shield last year, and it was expected that they would have a walk-over. The result, however, though hardly a fair criterion of the contest, proved the contrary, the Club winning by two goals to one. There were one or two changes in the composition of the Club's team as published, whilst the Fusiliers, with the exception of one man, played with the team that won the Shield. The eleven lined up as follows:—

Club: Goal, Hickling; backs, Harrison and Bonnar; half-backs, Holmes, Knox, and Henderson; forwards, Lemarchand, Rutherford, Cooper, Seth, and Cooke, R.N.

"A" Co.: Goal, Rhodes; backs, Bellis and Phillips; half-backs, Croft, Bevan, and Deegan; forwards, Gregory, Andrews, Stevens, Jones (Cap.), and Jones.

Referee.—F. Browne.

Facing the west goal, the Club set the ball in motion, but the first attack came from the visitors. Harrison turned it smartly, and an effort was made to clear the home team's territory. Gregory held other views, and after a sprint along the wing shot for goal, missing the mark, however, and registering a bye only. Cooke responded for his side, with a like result. Play was by no means fast, but a semblance of enthusiasm was aroused in the spectators by a plucky run up the field by Gregory, who was challenged by Bonnar. The handsman had the advantage in length of limb, and at a favourable moment centred the ball, which was captured by the visitors, but eventually sent badly past. Tired of playing the part of defender, the Club broke away and invaded their opponents' territory, but the attack was weak, and did not call for serious effort to repel it; a corner against the soldiers on their left wing, however, was inconvenient, although remaining unconverted. Gregory relieved, and tried to find the net, but Bonnar, who played a fine game, upset his calculations and freed Hickling from anxiety. Seth next made a weak attempt to open the scoring, and although Rhodes handled the leather he had no difficulty whatever in negotiating the shot. A better try came a few moments later from Cooke, who sent the ball across the goal-mouth and past. The groundsman's right wing was showing up very well, and made a second essay, which, however, was accounted for by "A" Co.'s backs. An unproductive corner for the Club on their right wing and a breakaway by Andrews and Gregory, the latter of whom missed the goal by a couple of feet, followed in rapid succession. Gregory soon afterwards was given off-side, and afforded the Club an opportunity which Cooper threw away by his unnecessary haste to baffle Rhodes: the ball, sent in at close quarters, struck the side of the net. Half-time came with out any score.

The first attack in the second half was made by the Club, but Seth, who had charge of the ball, emulated Cooper and got to the side of the net. The goal-kick did not relieve the pressure, and matters would have been anything but rosy for the soldiers had Cooper exhibited some of that haste misapplied in the first instance and shot in. He was too slow, however, and "A" Co. profited. Following give-and-take play in midfield, the Club's centre-forward retrieved his reputation completely by taking the ball single-handed clear away from the crowd and scoring. Rhodes had no chance whatever to save. Succeeding play was marked by more spirit than had hitherto been seen, and the ball travelled rapidly about the field. Andrews at last got it at his feet, and with a hard shot found the net. It was not the equaliser, however, for the referee's whistle had already given him off-side. Banked once, "A" Co. renewed the attack with vigour, placing the Club entirely on the defensive. A scramble ensued at goal, and at its height the leather was banged into the net. Each side appeared to settle down after this to a steady watching of the other's tactics, neither pressing for any advantage. Some long passing finally brought the Fusiliers up the field again, and Jones, outside left, sent in a shot which compelled Hickling to handle the ball. A foul in Club

territory was badly taken by "A" Co., the leather dropping behind the net, and the penalty for this slackness came in a visit from the Club players, who were soon almost round Rhodes. Seth shot, but the pass had been taken from off-side, and the referee's whistle called attention to the fact. Rhodes, however, was not taking chances, and prevented the ball from going through. Cooke was the next man to give away a foul by being off side, but he made good this mistake by his subsequent play, which gave Rutherford a nice opening for goal. The latter centred admirably, and Seth took up the pass, which, owing to his being unsupported, he was unable to make anything of. A badly-placed corner against the ground men on their right wing transferred play to midfield, whence a bye for the Club followed. Bonnar turned a dangerous rush, and the Club's forwards broke away on another incursion. Rutherford was given the task of shooting, and this responsibility he discharged effectually. Taking time to steady himself, he found the net beautifully, and recorded the second goal for the Club. The call of time found the game standing:—

H.K.F.C., 2 goals; "A" Co., R.W.F., 1 goal.

HOCKEY.

CLUB v. R.A.

A good game was played on Tuesday afternoon between the above teams and resulted in a win for the military representatives by 3 goals to 1. The Club team was somewhat crippled, especially in the forward division, by the absence of the captain, Hooper, who is on the sick list, and Thornhill, Tulloch, and Dykes, who were assisting the R.A.

The early stages of the game were conspicuous for some good runs by Smith of the Gunners, and the first goal for them was scored by Thornhill. Carter put in some good work for the Club, but was rather feebly supported by his fellow-forwards. Thornhill and Smith then scored 2 goals in quick succession before the interval. Half-time score: R.A., 3; Club, nil. After the whistle blew again, the Club seemed to rally better, and Roberts, Carter, and Baggan made some good efforts, which were frustrated by the R.A. backs, who played a strong defensive game. Wedehouse then notched the first Club goal, after some pretty passing among the Club forwards. A number of off-sides followed, the soldiers apparently being too keen to score, but their efforts were finally rewarded by a good goal, which gave Parker no chance of clearing. The game now assumed a more give-and-take aspect, and the ball fluctuated between the twenty-five yard lines. Just before time the Gunners made a determined rush, and were compensated by their scoring another goal. Desultory play ensued, and the whistle blew after a keen game, leaving the R.A. successful as stated.

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

The following gentleman were elected as Stewards for the ensuing year at the general annual meeting of the Hongkong Jockey Club held at the City Hall on the 28th ult:—

Hon. F. H. May	59 votes
Mr. W. A. Cruickshank	55
Mr. Hunter	55
Mr. G. C. C. Master	46
Mr. Hart Buck	41
Mr. J. H. Lewis	41
Col. Hughes	39
Sir C. P. Caster	39
Mr. H. P. White	38
Mr. E. W. Rutter	32

On the 16th ult. the Russian cruiser *Admiral Nakhimoff*, with Mr. Waeber on board, arrived at Chemulpo from Port Arthur. Mr. Waeber and suite arrived at Seoul the same afternoon. Prince Cyril, accompanied by the Commander of the *Admiral Nakhimoff*, arrived at Seoul next day, and the Prince, accompanied by Mr. Waeber, was to be presented to His Majesty the Korean Emperor in a few days. It is reported that Russia intends to urge the Korean Government to take Mr. Waeber as an adviser to the Government and place him in the same position as Mr. Kato, Japanese Adviser to the Government.

LIEUT.-COL. MANIFOLD'S JOURNEY.

Lieutenant-Colonel Manifold, I.M.S., lectured before the United Service Institute at Simla last month on his adventurous journey from Peking to Szechuen, made in company with Captain Hunter, R.E. The two travellers left Peking in September last year, immediately after the Chinese had agreed to the payment of the indemnity, and when the allied forces were still in possession of Peking. British influence, therefore, stood high and Colonel Manifold and his companion were not wrong in thinking that this would be sufficient to ensure their protection, in spite of the disturbed state of the country. The party included Mr. Harris, who acted as interpreter, two trained Roorkee surveyors, six Gurkhas, four Indian servants, and twenty mules. For the first hundred miles the route was by train on the recently reconstructed railway to Paoting-fu. This place they found in an excited state, the current rumour being that the French had evacuated it only because they were compelled to do so by superior Chinese force.

Colonel Manifold describes the railway as a magnificent project, which will eventually be continued to Capton, tapping the commerce of the great waterways which it crosses en route and opening up the rich mineral districts of Shansi, which contain some of the finest coal and iron beds in the world. It is actually under construction for 250 miles from either end, and it is to be regretted that Great Britain has no share in it, although both its conception and its inception were due to the genius and perseverance of an Englishman, Mr. Kinder, now manager of the Peking-Tientsin-Shanhaikwan lines. Mr. Kinder went out to China as engineer of the Tongshan collieries and commenced his railway projects in the face of immense difficulties by building a tram-line to convey coal to the nearest port. Out of this grew the idea of the Peking-Tientsin railway, worked by the Chinese Government as a China line, but owned and run by British capital under British supervision and staff with head office in London. This proved so great a success that Mr. Kinder proposed the construction of a great trunk line across China to be run on the same methods. He actually commenced work upon the project but money was not forthcoming and the concession for the northern half was ultimately acquired by a combination of the Russo-Chinese Bank, which is little else than a Russian state concern financed for political purposes, and of a Belgian and French syndicate. Mr. Kinder thus had the mortification of seeing his project handed over to foreign rivals. The Russians were so impressed however with what he had done that they carried off his little hand-made engine, the first that ran on his tram-line and have deposited it in the St. Petersburg Museum, as a memento of an era in the history of the Far East. The Northern section of the railway from Peking to Hankow will take, Col. Manifold thinks, some seven years to build owing to the heavy bridging necessary. The Southern section from Hankow to Canton is vastly easier. The highest point it has to cross on its way to the sea is only a thousand feet high, and this with easy grading. The concession for the southern section was given with British approval, to an American syndicate, which has commenced work both from Canton and from the Tungting Lake on the Yangtze, about a hundred miles from Hankow. Forty per cent. of the shares, however, are said to be in Belgian hands, which in China too often means that France and Russia are pulling the strings. Colonel Manifold looks upon this railway as of enormous importance in connection with the future development of the country for whoever controls it will influence also the great hinterland it traverses. The fact that this line is not British means, besides, that several millions worth of rolling stock will be purchased for it during the next ten years elsewhere than in England.

From Paoting the party marched fifty miles to Chinting, a town of some 60,000 inhabitants, which contains the remains of a fine Buddhist monastery, also a large Christian community. Proceeding onward to Weihui they came across numbers of French Roman Catholic churches

occupying the best land, the Abbots possessing extraordinary influence and power besides receiving a large portion of the land revenue. Other features noticed were the respect with which the name of General Gordon was still regarded by the people in this part of China, and the extraordinary obedience shown to the Chinese officials. Colonel Manifold was told, in this region, that the Boxer movement had originated in the resentment felt at the extent to which these French missionaries had afforded protection to Chinese criminals who were in the habit of declaring themselves Christians in order to escape punishment. Whatever truth there may have been in this story, it did not interfere with the influence exercised by these clerics. Colonel Manifold indeed attributes the friendliness shown to him by the inhabitants and the hospitality extended to him by the mandarins as largely due to his party being taken for one of priests. He concludes that their recent troubles have impressed the Chinese with the necessity of playing up to the missionaries.

The Yellow River was afterwards crossed and Colonel Manifold notices the extraordinary destruction of human life and the devastation of the country caused by this river's periodical changing of its bed. Forty million people, he heard, had been washed away or starved, owing to its inundations fifteen years ago, the floods rendering vast areas of cultivated land sterile by covering it with sand. An immense amount of money is being spent in endeavouring to keep the stream within its present bed, but, in places, it still spreads over so wide an area that boats drawing twenty inches can barely navigate it. Where the party crossed the stream was 2½ miles wide and only 3½ feet deep. On the other side was the city of Kaifeng-fu, one of the ancient capitals of China, situated in a region of great fertility. This place has a great reputation for hostility to foreigners, but Colonel Manifold was lucky in his treatment, the principal fact he records being the great curiosity with which his party was regarded. The Governor was courteous itself. Like other Chinese officials with whom Colonel Manifold came in contact, he referred to the recent troubles as having been the work of a few disaffected rebels whom the Emperor had now punished. The people generally, however, appeared to realise that the allies had occupied Peking and had inflicted heavy punishment upon the Chinese nation. In the remotest villages, where no foreigners had ever before been, the elders used to ask Colonel Manifold about it and there was none of the self-deception which was so noticeable after the Japanese war when it was honestly believed throughout the length and breadth of China that the Emperor had accepted the submission of the barbarians and permitted them to depart unpunished. Colonel Manifold also noticed that wherever he went the people contrasted the humanity of the British, Japanese and American troops with the brutalities they had been subjected to by the other allies.

Further on Colonel Manifold entered the Loess country which owes its fertility to deposits of yellow loam, sometimes a thousand feet thick, supposed to have been formed by ages of dust blown from Central Asia.

The deposit is intersected by crevices miles in length, which make travelling difficult, but is of extraordinary agricultural value, producing two and sometimes three crops in the year, and supporting an enormous population which lives largely in excavations in the loess. The subterranean dwellings are comfortably furnished inside, warm in winter and cool in summer. The roads were found to be narrow tracks sunk deep into the soil, and it was impossible to travel over the land on either side. This subjected the party to more danger than would otherwise have been the case from the bands of soldiery who formed the escort of the Court, then on its way back to Peking. These soldiers were often to be met unexpectedly and were far from friendly, but the party came to no particular harm from them, though it was necessary, on one occasion, to halt for some days on the banks of the Yellow River. Colonel Manifold and his companions were ultimately allowed to skirt the town of Hoan-fu and were accommodated, on the further side, in the very rest-house the Dowager Empress had last vacated. These rest-houses were dotted four miles from each other along the road, for the accommodation of the

royal party. The funds for building had been furnished to a large extent voluntarily by local mandarins desirous of winning Imperial favours. One of them, which Colonel Manifold went over, which was like hundreds of others along the route, had cost a sum equivalent to forty thousand rupees. It contained silk hangings, four poster beds with mother of pearl inlaying, and mirrors, jade plaques and evergreen carysanthemums to complete the decorations.

Beyond Hoan-fu the country was quiet and Colonel Manifold and Captain Hunter accordingly separated, the latter to travel northwards to the bend of the Yellow River at Tungkuau, the former to proceed up the Lo Valley to the main road to the Hsian-fu. Mountainous country had now been reached, the passes being from 3,000 to 4,000 feet high. The sole road leading out of the Wei River valley and conveying the whole of the traffic between Peking and South Western China was here found to pass beneath the walls of the great fortress of Tungkuau, which is of great political importance.

Colonel Manifold eventually made his way to Hsian-fu, the place to which the court fled on the occupation of Peking. Here he met a European medical missionary who had acquired immense influence amongst the people and was full of the change for the better which had come over the mandarins in their attitude towards the missionaries.

The next big city reached was Sianfu, in the very heart of Western China, where Colonel Manifold found an interesting monument on which was engraved in Chinese Syrian characters a record of the introduction of Christianity into China by the Nestorians the inscription stating that the Nestorian Olopwan of the Syrian Church came from Judaea to China in A. D. 636 "after having escaped great dangers by sea and land." The party afterward made their way, by routes hitherto untravalled by Europeans, across the Chinning range and down to the Yangtze basin.

Of the Yangtze region Colonel Manifold speaks enthusiastically alike as regards its great agricultural and mineral wealth, its numerous industries and dense population. He says it is now a case of waking up the British capitalist and investor to the advantages of developing it. He holds that if capital and enterprise only are forthcoming there will be no difficulty in establishing British preponderance in this marvellous region to which our gunboats already have access for two thousand miles up the river. He adds: "Gunboats alone will not develop trade in a country, and no sane man wants a yard of Chinese territory to pass out of the hands of the Chinese, but we do want to see our mercantile interest firmly established, and big enterprises, in British hands, opening up this rich Upper Yangtze country at once; a country so rich in resources and population that enterprises once started must pay. It is capable of a development that would cause it to take ten times the trade that it does now from us." He added the warning that "if enterprise is not forthcoming soon there is great danger that we may find other nations have established railways and mining interests so firmly in the richest portions of this region, that they will be able to assert a right of developing them entirely in their own interests, and keep us excluded."

During the 24 hours ended at 8 a.m. on the 22nd ult., 1,201 cases of cholera and 647 deaths were reported from the provinces in the Philippine Islands. Manila reported one case and one death. The total number of cases reported up to 8 a.m., October 22 was 95,070, with 63,914 deaths; mortality, 65 per cent.

The U.S. gunboat *Frolic* which ran ashore on a reef off the north-east end of Cebu Island, has been successfully floated and was to arrive at Manila in a few days, in tow of the Naval ocean tug *Piscataqua*, which was despatched to her assistance. The small gunboat *Isla de Cuba*, which was on station at Cebu, stood by the *Frolic* until she was hauled off the reef and then went directly to Cavite. The extent of damage sustained by the *Frolic* is at present mere conjecture, but when she is hauled out on the railway, a thorough examination will be made.

THE NEW COMMERCIAL TREATY.

On the 18th inst. we reproduced from the *N.-C. Daily News* the first of a series of articles by Mr. E. S. Little, of Shanghai, on the above subject. We have not space to quote more than Mr. Little's conclusions, as published in a number of the *N.-C. Daily News* just to hand. We give first, however, Mr. Little's remarks on two details of the eighth article of the Treaty:—

SECTION 14.

The Treaty made dependent on other Powers:—This is an undignified tone to assume, since it puts it in the power of any fifth-rate nation to cancel the entire Treaty. It also puts into the hands of these powers a strong lever with which to move China to the granting of any terms they may desire. An instance is even now reported in which it is stated that Portugal says to China in effect, "If you do not give us what we require we will withhold our sanction to the British Treaty," and the Treaty will either fall to the ground; or China, if she is supremely anxious it shall come into force, will be coerced into granting the demands of Portugal. All other Treaty Powers are in the same position and are furnished by Britain with this powerful weapon.

SECTION 15.

Consent of the Powers: Supposing by the 1st of January, 1904, some Power or Powers have failed to "signify their acceptance of these engagements," what is to become of our position? Are we to be left where we are at present? Surely some alternative should be provided by which the position of our goods as far as their inland circulation is concerned should be clearly stated and defined. This can be done by restating in definite terms the provision of the Tientsin Treaty, by which British goods are imported into the Treaty Ports for 5 per cent. import duty and are free to circulate within such *lekin* free area, which area should also be clearly defined, and are then free to pass to any part of the Chinese Empire upon the payment of a further 2½ per cent. without being subject to *lekin*, *loti*, or any other charge or tax of any description.

RESUME.

Mr. Little's *résumé* of his articles follows:—It is evident from a full consideration of this eighth Article, which is, of course, by far the most important of the entire Treaty, that the Article as it at present stands puts both foreigners and Chinese in a less advantageous position than they are at present under existing Treaties. Every effort should be made on the part of British merchants in China to prevent the ratification of this Treaty and to insist upon its modification. I have gone into detail in my review of the paragraphs of the Article and have shown the objections to them as I see them. I have also suggested what seemed to me to be improvements.

I would suggest that the subject be considered in due time by the China Association, the Chamber of Commerce and other public bodies interested, and that representations be made to the Foreign Office with a view to the improvement of this Article. If it is allowed to be ratified in its present form and comes into force we shall rue the day of its signature for many long years to come.

Many express the hope, and rely upon it, that other nations will refuse to be led into such a trap, but it is a most undignified position for a Britisher to occupy, namely, to have to depend upon other nations for that which he has a right to expect at the hands of his own Government. It behoves every Britisher interested in the commerce of this country, and indeed every Britisher of every kind who lives in or has any interest in this country, to do his part to bring about the non ratification of the Treaty as it now appears and to secure a remodelling of the Treaty as it at present stands.

Advocates of the new Treaty see a great difference between the present and preceding treaties, inasmuch as the previous treaties, so they affirm, have all been forced upon China, while in the present instance she has entered into the Treaty voluntarily and of her own accord, and will therefore keep its provisions. A very hasty survey of the circumstances will prove that the hope based upon this foundation is foredoomed to disappointment.

During the progress of the negotiations there were more troops of more nations upon the soil and within the territorial waters of the Chinese Empire than during the negotiations of any previous treaty. These troops were in practical occupation of the Capital and of the two strategic Ports (Shanghai and Tientsin) of the Empire and effectually held China by the throat, so that the Government felt in any case they would have to yield to *force majeure*. In this respect therefore there is very little difference between the present and any former Treaty.

Neither have we any grounds for believing that China will more sincerely and honestly endeavour to carry out the conditions of this Treaty than she has of her previous treaties, for there is no tangible evidence that she has changed her views or tactics, and we may only expect the fulfilment of its provisions as a result of constant vigilance and the exercise of more or less permanent pressure.

As a concrete instance of the present attitude of the Chinese Government and of its probable sincerity in its endeavours to honestly carry out the Treaty, we may instance the Whangpo Conservancy scheme. It is now more than a year since the Chinese Government solemnly affixed its seals to the Peace Protocol and to the particular clauses of the same which provide for the conservancy of the Whangpo. Since that time endless negotiations have taken place without, apparently, any tangible results whatever. The Chinese Government have shown no sign at all of willingness to meet the foreigners, and, as far as the public are aware, have not even yet appointed their member of the Board of Conservancy. Not until further pressure is brought to bear and the Chinese are compelled to yield may we expect this engagement to be carried through. Judging from previous treaties and from the present condition of this affair at the very moment of writing, we have little encouragement to expect any better treatment at the hands of the Chinese Government than we have experienced in the past and are even now experiencing.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION AND THE NEW TREATY.

Our Shanghai contemporary the *N.-C. Daily News*, which is one of the strongest supporters of Sir James Mackay's treaty with China, wrote thus on the 27th ult., just before the meeting of the China Association in Shanghai:—

"The China Association will decide this evening whether it will commit suicide or not. If it decides to be influenced by the specious denunciations of Mr. E. S. Little, it signs the death-warrant of its utility as a source of information and advice to the British Foreign Office, for the Treaty of Shanghai, which is to be the subject of to-day's meeting, undoubtedly embodies all the points which the Association has been urging on the Foreign Office for years; and the Association's self-stultification will be complete if it now turns round and says that it may still want these things, but this treaty is no use because it does not attain them, they being in fact unattainable. The obvious retort of the Foreign Office is, that the Association has been for years urging it to do what it now declares is and always will be impossible. Every member of the China Association in Shanghai is morally bound to attend to-day's meeting, the most important that has been held in Shanghai since the days of the Alcock Convention. The Association has to decide whether it will confirm a treaty which expressly secures everything that we have for years been asking our Foreign Office to secure; which has been framed by the best man that the British Government could find for the purpose in England, and the man in Shanghai whom unquestionably the British commercial community here would select as its ablest representative; which has been met only with destructive criticism; and for which none of its opponents with all their verbosity has been able to suggest a substitute. We cannot believe that any thoughtful member of the Association can even hesitate to give his vote in favour of the treaty. It is not a question of improving the treaty before ratification, for no improvements are so much as suggested, it is a question of adopting what is undoubtedly a great step in advance, or throwing the whole matter of Treaty Revision back into chaos."

A resolution of approval of the Mackay treaty, qualified by an amendment asking for safeguards from China and suggesting additions to prevent misunderstandings and friction, was passed at the meeting by 53 votes to 42, as has already been announced by telegram.

HONGKONG.

H. E. Hsu, Viceroy of Canton, accompanied by his wife, arrived here on the 28th ult. by the German mail steamer *Hamburg*.

The reappointment of the Hon. Wei Yuk as Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council is notified in the *Gazette*.

The conditions and scale of fees for bacteriological examinations in the Government Bacteriological Department are published in the *Gazette*.

During the week ended 25th October there were notified 1 case of plague, Chinese, fatal; 1 case of cholera, Chinese, fatal; and 2 cases of enteric fever, European (imported from Manila), non-fatal.

By the *Haitan*, Capt. J. S. Roach, on the 26th ult. there arrived Dr. Solff, Governor of Samoa, who has been visiting the coast ports in connection with the native labour question.

A *Government Gazette Extraordinary* issued on the 25th ult. announced that restrictions at Burma ports against arrivals from Hongkong have been removed; and that medical inspection at Shanghai of ships from Hongkong has been discontinued, but the importation of rags, old paper, coffins, and earth-mould is still prohibited.

The police reported on Friday that a cargo-boat had been sunk by a steam-launch in the harbour on the previous day. The crew were rescued by the Water Police. On the same day a cargo-boat ran into a sampan which crossed its bows, the occupants being thrown into the water and the sampan overturned. The crew of the luckless craft were picked up, and the sampan was subsequently righted.

In the Bankruptcy Court on the 30th ult., before His Honour the Chief Justice—evidence was heard in a case *re* Luk Hang, house-builder, debtor, *ex parte* Li Pak Hi, creditor, Mr. M. J. D. Stephens, solicitor, appearing for the creditors, who had proved, and the Official Receiver (Mr. G. H. Wakeman) in person. After certain evidence had been given, further public examination was adjourned *sine die*, and the debtor was ordered to be prosecuted under section 82, sub-section 4 and sub-section 5a, of the Bankruptcy Ordinance No. 20 of 1891.

We regret very much to have to record the death on the 26th ult. of Mr. Robert Trevelyan Head, who expired at 8.45 p.m., at the Peak Hospital, where he had been lying ill for about a week. Mr. Head first came out East in 1888, when he was employed by Messrs. Cornes & Co. of Kobe. In 1892 he went to Messrs. Dodwell, Carlill & Co., also of Kobe, and in 1896 joined as assistant the firm of W. H. Gill of the same port. In 1898 he came down to Hongkong and entered the service of Messrs. Douglas, Lapark & Co., with whom he remained, but for a brief interval, until the spring of the present year, when he commenced business as a broker. He joined Messrs. Erich Georg & Co., share and general brokers, but had only been with them a few months when he died. The cause of death was a complication of liver complaint and malaria, but he had been unwell since he was attacked by dysentery in North China in 1900, when he was temporarily acting as one of Renter's correspondents with the Allied troops. The hardships of the march to Peking, etc., in a bad season of the year no doubt weakened his constitution considerably. He was a popular figure at the Hongkong Club, where he had a large circle of friends, by whom "Head San," as he was known in reminiscence of his Japanese days, will be much missed. Apart from his social qualities, the deceased, who was the son of an Exeter solicitor and was educated at Rugby School, had a store of classical knowledge such as is rare in the Far East, and was a man of very varied tastes, even including the writing of satiric verse. He was a member of the Perseverance Lodge and of the Devonian Society. The funeral took place at the Happy Valley soon after 8 o'clock on the 27th ult.; between 30 and 40 friends being present. The Rev. F. T. Johnson, chaplain of St. John's Cathedral, read the burial service. A number of wreaths were sent as tokens of respect.

In the Supreme Court on Friday before His Honour the Chief Justice, Patrick Marron was convicted of criminal assault and was sentenced to five years' imprisonment with hard labour.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending 25th October, were 233 non-Chinese and 63 Chinese to the former, and 60 non-Chinese and 2342 Chinese to the latter institution.

The dead body of a Chi aman, with the head gashed in four places, was found in a house at 1, Vall y Tai Shek Ku on Thursday. The police are investigating the case, which presents a suspicious element.

A very interesting 200 yards swimming match took place at the V.R.C. on Friday between Messrs C. J. Cooke, A. Humphreys, and N. H. Alves for a handsome cup presented by a local merchant. Cooke finished first by nearly six seconds from Alves. Humphreys gave up after completing half the distance. There was a large attendance of spectators.

In the report recently issued of the Peak Church for 1901-2, the Committee state that the expenses during the year have been heavier than usual, as the cost of the necessary repairs undertaken last year had to be met. In spite of this the financial position of the Church remains sound, as there is still a credit balance in the bank of \$426 4. The offerings, which amount to \$449.53, show a slight increase over those of last year.

A meeting of Englishmen interested in promoting a ball during the present season was held in the City Hall on the 29th ult. His Honour the Chief Justice being in the chair. It was decided if sufficient support was forthcoming to hold a ball on Twelfth Night (6th January, 1903), and a provisional committee consisting of Mr. Justice Wise, Hon. R. M. Rumsey, Commodore Robinson, R.N., Messrs. Hewitt, Hunter, Layton, Medhurst, Mitchell, Nicolle, and Pollock, K.C., were elected. The Chief Justice His Honour W. Meigh Goodman was unanimously elected President, and Messrs. C. W. May and E. W. Mitchell, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary respectively.

The British transport *Uganda* arrived in the harbour on the 25th ult. from Taku, having on board 398 Indian troops on relief from the North. The officers on board are Major Dick, Major Dunsterville, Lieut.-Col. Greaney, Captain Bogle, Captain Carter, Captain Roberts, Captain Brogan, and Lieut. Hall. The *Uganda*, which sailed on the 26th ult. for Calcutta, also took with her details of the Hongkong Regiment.

The Japanese destroyer *Asashio* arrived on the 26th ult. from London, and the German gunboat *Tiger* on the 25th ult. from Hoihow.

The Portuguese gunboat *Dia* arrived on the 27th ult. from Macao, and H.M.S. *Cressy* went into dock at Kowloon.

The German gunboat *Tiger* went out cruising on the 30th ult., and the Portuguese gunboat *Dia* left for Macao. H.M.S. *Cressy* came out of dock early on the 30th ult., and the *Bienheim* took her place in the dock.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Norwegian steamer *Tordenskjold*, 1,189 tons, has been sold to Japanese for 120,000 yen, and is re-named the No. 2 *Chiyoda Maru*.

According to the *Deutsch Asiatische Warte*, the German Emperor has ordered the withdrawal of one battalion of the East Asiatic contingent from Chingwantao. The steamer *Gouverneur Joeschke* is to transport the troops from Chingwantao to Tientsin.

On the evening of the 16th ult., a meeting of the China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society was held in the Society's hall, Museum Road, Shanghai, Mr. T. W. Kingsmill presiding, when the Rev. Dr. Edkins delivered the inaugural lecture for the season just commencing.

A third meeting of French citizens took place on the 14th ult. at M. Jourdan's residence in Bangkok to consider the protest against the new Franco-Siam Treaty, which it had been remitted to a committee to draw up. The Chinese *protégés* and the French missionaries were absent. The protest, which is a lengthy document, took the form of a petition to the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. It was adopted after considerable discussion.

Ban Lee Company's pawnshop, in Penang Road, Penang, was completely gutted on the night of the 14th ult. The contents were, it is understood, insured for \$500,000 in the New Zealand Company.

Britons, says the *Peking and Tientsin Times*, will hear of the impending departure of Sir Ernest Satow on his well-merited furlough with very mixed feelings. Sir Ernest has been an admirable custodian of British interests in Peking, and has proved a personal embodiment of English policy, that of benevolence towards China and the firmest resolution not to be shouldered out in the strife of rival interests. It says much for the Minister that during his tenure of office Press censure, whether wise or foolish, of British policy has been almost in complete abeyance, and that he has managed to retain the profound esteem of his colleagues in an environment where statesmanship is apt to be submerged in intrigue. Not since the lamented death of his old chief, Sir Harry Parkes, has a British Minister established so fine a record. We trust Sir Ernest will have a pleasant holiday and as speedy a return to the scene of his labours as is compatible with much-needed relaxation and rest.

The *Straits Times* of the 20th ult. writes:—The mystery of the Sikh Army with which, *vide* the Havas Agency, Britain invested Kelantan a month ago, is slowly coming to light. Yesterday Jemadar Vira Singh, formerly in the Kedah Police service, with 55 Sikhs arrived here from Kelantan by the East Asiatic steamship *Borild*. The Jemadar and his company, with some forty others who have remained in Kelantan to form a body-guard to the Rajah, were engaged by that ruler a couple of months ago, at the time of the trouble brought about by the attempts of Siam to ride roughshod through the Customs regulations of his Sultanate. Their engagement was a temporary one, to last through the disturbance only. When the difficulty was settled, and the Siamese had duly paid up the duties out of which they had endeavoured to burke the smaller country by a display of arms, and when the question of all such, the future payment duties, etc.—thanks to the intervention of the British Foreign Office—had been duly smoothed over, their services being no longer required, the Sikhs left the country. They were mostly engaged locally, or at Penang, by agents of the Rajah of Kelantan, and were shipped up the East Coast on the steamships *Fleco* and *Ban Wat Hin*.

The position with regard to the evacuation remains the same as far as our advice informs us. Reuter understands that the British objection to the Franco-German conditions for the evacuation is based on the fact that the stipulation forbidding preferential advantages refers to the Yangtze Valley only, and not to the whole of China. The *Times* Peking correspondent states that Germany's conditions intimate that she will participate in any re-occupation of the port: she also stipulates that China will not grant to any other Power preferential, political, military, maritime, or economic advantages in the Yangtze Valley, nor the right to occupy any point commanding the river. The French have imposed similar conditions, but omitting the reference to economic advantages. China accepted the conditions. A telegram to the *Ostasiatische Lloyd*, dated Berlin, 2nd October, says:—"The German Government is fully in accord with China and France as to the conditions of the withdrawal of the troops from Shanghai. The opinion prevails here that Great Britain's hesitation to agree thereto can only be explained by her intention to obtain exclusive rights." In the course of a leading article on the evacuation question the *N.-C. Daily News* very pointedly comments:—"The fact is that Germany, having been unsuccessful in getting Chihli added to her recognised sphere of influence in Shantung, has been ever since trying to get the acknowledgment of the Yangtze Valley as Great Britain's sphere of influence annulled; and it is with this object that the conditions accepted by Prince Ching were framed, and Germany is trying to throw dust in the eyes of the world by pretending that because we object to having our hands tied behind our back, we must have the intention of making an improper use of our hands."

Actual work on the Philippines census begins next March.

It is reported that the Korean Government is taking steps to prevent the circulation of the notes payable at sight which were issued by the Daiichi Bank of Tokyo for circulation in Corea. The Russian Minister to Seoul, who is apparently desirous of supporting the Korean Government in this matter, has addressed an official note to the Korean Government and declined to receive Daiichi Ginko notes in payment of the salary of the Russians in the employment of the Korean Government.

L'Echo de Chine prints for the information of the French colony at Shanghai a telegram received by the French Consul-General, M. Beau, lately French Minister at Peking and now Governor-General of French Indo-China. The following is a translation:—"I have assumed possession of the Governorship-General of Indo-China. You know all the interest I take in our fine colonies in China and particularly that at Shanghai. I pray you to transmit the assurance of this to our compatriots. (Signed) Beau."

Commenting on the Singapore report about a movement being afoot in Bangkok to oust the British officers employed in the Siamese Customs and replace them by Frenchmen, the *Siam Observer* remarks:—"The *Singapore Free Press* has evidently been misled by some cock-and-bull story connected with the approaching termination of the original engagement of Mr. E. Ambrose as Assistant Director-General and Adviser to the Customs Department, and the question of its renewal pending. There is nothing else, so far as we know, which could have given a pretext for the gossip sent to the Singapore paper."

It is satisfactory news, says the *Straits Times*, that the construction of the Singapore-Johore Railway is rapidly progressing towards completion. We understand all the bridges are finished, and the line is little more than a mile of 1ue remaining to be laid at the Woodlands end. The longest bridge is that at Mandai which has a span of about 100 feet. The line is now being ballasted with granite as quickly as the metal can be obtained; and the Tank Road terminal station and other stations are very nearly completed. There seems every reason to believe therefore that the construction of the line will be finished by the end of the year.

The *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* last month published what it describes as a rectification of a report which, emanating originally from the Japanese paper *Niroku Shimpu*, then went the round of the German newspapers. The writer says that the expulsion of a number of Japanese merchants from the island of Rug, belonging to the Caroline group, was carried out in pursuance of a sentence passed on them judicially for a contravention of the law prohibiting the importation of arms and ammunition. The *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* adds:—"The strict enforcement of the prohibition is all the more important because the inhabitants of Rug are of a restless and turbulent character, and the German authorities have at their disposal no military force for the maintenance of peace and order."

The *Sin Wen Pao* learns from Kwangsi that the rebels in that province lately numbered several thousands, but owing to the recent drought and the sudden rise of the price of rice, they are now assembling in great numbers and with redoubled violence, while their arms are of latest pattern, some of them having been brought away with the men when they deserted from the army for not having received their regular pay. Again Government troops have been often invested, numerous guns and rifles were captured by the rebels, who are further supplied with arms by out-riders, and in consequence they have become very formidable. On the 2nd ult., Sze Un fu Prefecture and several districts were attacked by the rebels, and some of the local officials escaped, while others committed suicide. Viceroy Tak Sow, upon receiving this alarming news, decided to despatch a large force of the An Army to that region, as this army had distinguished itself in Kwangsi once before. The two battalions ordered by Governor Wang Chi-chun to be recruited in other provinces arrived at Hongkong and took steamers to Canton, from which province they were being transported to Kwangsi in fourteen boats towed by river gunboats.

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 31st October.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 31st October.—Prices are declining, market being dull.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.10 to \$8.15	pel.
do. " 2, White.....	6.80 to 6.85	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	5.95 to 6.00	"
do. " 2, Brown	5.75 to 5.80	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.05 to 8.10	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	6.70 to 6.75	"
do. " 1, Brown	5.70 to 5.75	"
do. " 2, Brown	5.60 to 5.65	"
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	12.15 to 12.10	"
Shekloong "	9.50 to 9.55	"

RICE.

HONGKONG 31st October.—The prices are further advancing, market being very brisk.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$3.90 to 3.95	
" Round, Good quality	4.75 to 4.80	
" Long	4.90 to 4.95	
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	4.25 to 4.30	
" Garden, " No. 1	4.40 to 4.45	
" White	5.10 to 5.15	
" Fine Cargo	5.25 to 5.30	

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 24th October.—Amongst the sale, reported during the week are the following:—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$83.00 to \$124.00	per bale
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00	
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00	
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00	
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00	

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.20 to 2.30	per piece.
7 lbs.	2.30 to 2.50	
8 1/2 lbs.	3.10 to 3.77 1/2	
9 to 10 lbs.	3.85 to 5.00	
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.60 to 2.90	
58 to 60 "	3.25 to 3.45	
64 to 66 "	3.55 to 5.35	
Fine	5.40 to 7.85	
Book-folds	4.55 to 7.00	
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.75 to 1.40	
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.). Ord'y.	1.90 to 2.15	
7lbs. (32 ")	2.20 to 2.50	
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.25 to 2.40	
7lbs. (32 ")	3.95 to 3.50	
8 to 8 1/2 oz. (36 in.)	3.20 to 3.75	
Drills, English—40 yds. 13 1/2 " ..	4.20 to 6.90	

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 1/2 to 8 lbs }	1.60 to 4.50	
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BROCADES—Dyed

Brocades—Dyed	— to —	
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DAMASKS—

Chintzes—Assorted	0.08 to 0.25	per yard
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.23 to 0.60	
Velveteens—18 in.	0.23 to 0.28	

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.25 to 3.50	per dozen
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WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.65 to 2.25	per yard
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Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.00	per piece
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Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.85 to 8.25	
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Assorted	7.00 to 9.40	
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Camlets—Assorted	15.50 to 34.00	
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Lastings—30 yds, 31 inches }	12.50 to 17.00	
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Assorted	10.00 to —	
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Orleans—Plain	10.00 to —	
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Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	0.60 to 0.80	per pair
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Fine quality,	1.40 to 2.00	
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METALS—

Iron—Nail Rod	4.60 to —	per picul
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Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.	4.60 to —	
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Swedish Bar	4.65 to —	
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Small Round Rod	5.00 to —	
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Hoop 1/2 to 1 1/2 in.	6.50 to —	
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Wire, 16/25,	9.20 to —	
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Old Wire Rope	3.20 to —	
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Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	7.95 to —	
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Australian	7.95 to —	
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Yellow Metal—Muntz 14 20 oz.	39.50 to —	
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Vivian's 14 20 oz.	39.00 to —	
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Elliot's 14 20 oz.	39.00 to —	
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Composition Nails	61.00 to —	
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Japan Copper, Slabs	39.00 to —	
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Tin	89.00 to —	
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Tin-Plates	8.30 to —	box, per
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Steel 1/2 to 3/4	6.50 to —	per cwt. case
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SUNDRIES—

Quicksilver	180.00 to —	per picul
Window Glass	5.75 to —	per box.
Kerosene Oil	2.61 to —	per 10-gal. case

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Hitachi Maru (str.).	
FOR LONDON.—Chusan (str.), Glenartney (str.), Menelaus (str.), Java (str.), Agamemnon (str.), Tantalus (str.), Hitachi Maru (str.).	
FOR LIVERPOOL.—Deucalion (str.), Pingsuey (str.), Alcinous (str.).	
FOR MARSEILLES.—Ernest Simons (str.), Hitachi Maru (str.), Prinz Valdemar (str.), Java (str.).	
FOR BREMEN.—Sachsen (str.).	
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Saronia (str.), Serbia (str.), Marburg (str.), Suevia (str.), Alesia (str.).	
FOR TRIESTE.—Marquis Bacquehem (str.).	
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Teenhai (str.), Duke of Eife (str.), Kaga Maru (str.).	
FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of India (str.), Tartar (str.).	
FOR NEW YORK.—Lothian (str.), Charles Tiberghien (str.).	
FOR BALTIMORE.—Charles Tiberghien (str.).	
FOR PORTLAND (OR.).—Indrapura (str.).	
FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Kasuga Maru (str.), Tsingmu (str.), Australian (str.).	
FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—Kumang (str.).	
FOR BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE AND PENANG.—Bisagua (str.).	

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 31st October.—A fair general business has been transacted during the week under review, and our market closes firm for most of our principal stocks.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled steady with sales at \$627 1/2 and \$630, closing with further buyers at the former rate. The latest London quotation to hand is £64. Nationals have been booked at \$27, and further shares are obtainable at the rate.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have again been booked at \$460. China Traders have improved to \$61 with buyers. Cantons have been placed at \$167 1/2 and are further obtainable at the rate. Yangtzes are quiet at \$131.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have sold at \$350 and close steady. Chinas have been booked at \$85 1/2 and \$86, closing with sellers at the higher quotation.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue steady at \$37 with sales and probable further buyers. Indo-Chinas have eased off to some extent during the week, but are steady again at the close with a buying tendency at \$96. China and Manilas continue in request at \$25. Douglases have weakened to \$40 with small sales and free sellers at \$41. Star Ferries continue in strong request at \$22 and \$12 for the old and new issues respectively. Shell Transports are unchanged at £1. 17s. 6d.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been booked at \$100 and \$101, and close in demand at the former rate. Luzons have changed hands at \$18, and are in further request.

MINING.—Punjoms can be placed at \$21. Jelebus are weak at \$1 1/2 sellers. Raubs have declined to \$7 sellers.

DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks after sales at \$220 have eased off to some extent to \$217 1/2 at which the stock closes steady. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have sold and are in further request at \$89. New Amoy Docks continue to be quoted at \$37 buyers.

LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have steadily improved their position and are now in request at \$186 after sales at this rate and \$185. Kowloon Lands are quoted \$30 sellers. West Points are wanted at \$17 1/2, sellers holding for \$50. Humphreys Estates have been done at \$12 1/2 and are wanted. Hongkong Hotels are again higher at \$135 buyers. Oriente Hotels can be placed to a small extent at \$40.

COTTON MILLS.—Internationals have declined to Tls. 34 with sales in the North. Hongkong Cottons have been placed to a large extent at \$17.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements continue in demand at \$20 1/2 after sales at this figure and \$21. Electrics have sold at \$13 (old) and \$6 1/2 (new) and are still wanted. Ropes, after a sale at \$120, are wanted at \$125. Fenwicks have sold at \$48 1/2 and are now quoted at \$49. Steam Water-Boats have been disposed of at \$9. Robinson Pianos in the absence of business are quoted at \$50 nominal. Powells are wanted at \$8 1/2.

MEMO.—Funjom Mining Co., Ltd., extraordinary general meeting on the 11th November for the purpose of considering a resolution for the raising of new capital.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	(\$627, buyers; £64, L'don.)
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$27, sellers
B. Shares	£8	\$27, sales & sellers
Found. Shares	£1	\$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$1, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$35.
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$15	\$30, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$15, sellers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$10, sales & sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$100, buyers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$500, buyers
Philippine Tobacco Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$40, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 38, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 34.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 37 1/2.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150.
Hongkong	\$100	\$17, sales & sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$49.
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$20 1/2, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$13, sales & buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$5	\$630, buyers
Hk. Steam Water Boat Co., Ltd.	\$100	\$345.
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$135, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$240.
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$83, sales & buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$125, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$217 1/2.
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$167 1/2, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$86, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$61, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$350, sales & sellers
North China	£25	Tls. 177 1/2, ex div.
Straits	\$20	\$1, sellers
Union	\$50	\$440, sales
Yangtze	\$60	\$131.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$186, buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$12 1/2, sales & buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$47 1/2, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$15, sales & buyers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$20, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$660, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	\$1 1/2, sellers
Punjom	\$10	\$24, buyers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1, sellers
Raubs	18	\$7, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$37, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$40, buyers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$84.
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50.
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$25, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$40.
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$37, sales
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$96.
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	£1	£1. 17s. 6d.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$22, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$12, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$84.
Do.	\$10	\$155.
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$19 1/2, sellers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$7, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$15, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Shanghai, 29th October (from Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). There has been a fair amount of business done during the week, with general improvement in rates, although Indo-Chinas are a marked exception. **BANKS.**—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. There is no local business reported. **MARINE INSURANCE.**—Yangtze Insurance shares were sold at \$130. **FIRE INSURANCE.**—No local business is reported and our quotations are unchanged. **SHIPPING.**—Indo-China S. N. Co. Business has been done at Tls. 74 cash, Tls. 74 60 for the settlement 72 71 for December, to 73 76 for January, 77 for February and 78 76 for March. The closing cash rate is 69. Douglas Steamship shares have weakened to \$41. **SUGAR.**—Peraks are offering at 77. **MINING.**—Punjons have declined to \$13 with sellers. Chinese Engineering and Mining shares have changed hands at Tls. 83 830. **DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.**—S. C. Farnham, Boyd and Co., Ltd. For cash, and settlement, shares have been sold at Tls. 195 20 for December at 200, for February at 205 207, and for March at 208. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares were sold at Tls. 31 307 1/2 cash, and 312 1/2 for November. Yangtze Wharf shares are obtainable at Tls. 23 1/2. **LANDS.**—Shanghai Land Investment shares have been in strong demand and business was done at Tls. 125 130. Weihaiwei shares have changed hands at Tls. 12 1/2. **INDUSTRIAL.**—In Cotton Mills.—Ewos changed hands at Tls. 38. International at Tls. 31, and Laou-kung-mows at Tls. 35, 37 1/2 and 36. Shanghai Ice shares are offering at Tls. 22. China Flour Mill shares were placed at Tls. 75 76, and Shanghai Pulp shares at Tls. 101 1/2 cash and 105 for January. **TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.**—Shanghai Tug Boat shares were placed at Tls. 270, 28 1/2, and 285; and Shanghai Cargo Boat shares at Tls. 170, 165 and 170. **MISCELLANEOUS.**—A large business has been done in Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares at Tls. 300 332 1/2 and 335 for cash and settlement, at 327 1/2 for November, 307 345, and 355 for December, 310 312 1/2 for January, 305 for February and 325 360 and 357 1/2 for March. Business was done in Central Stores shares at \$23 and Astor House Hotel shares at \$41 for January. Weeks and Co., Ltd. The Directors' report and statement of accounts for year ending July 31st have been published for presentation at the meeting of shareholders convened for the 29th inst. The year's working shows a net credit balance of \$22,165.11, from which has to be deducted directors' and auditors' fees \$1,500, leaving a balance of \$20,665.11, equal to 10.33 per cent. on the capital. Payment of the guaranteed dividend at 10 per cent. will absorb \$8,000, and it is proposed to appropriate the balance by writing off flotation expenses \$517.62, and carrying forward to new account \$747.49. **LOANS.**—Debentures were sold—Shanghai Gas 6 per cent. at Tls. 103, Shanghai Club 6 per cent. at Tls. 101, and County Club 6 per cent. at 101 1/2.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

SATURDAY, 1st November.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1 7 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1 8
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1 8 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1 8 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1 8 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1 8 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2 09
Credits, 4 months' sight	2 13
ON GERMANY.—On demand	
1 70 1/2	
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	40 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	41 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	124 1/2
Bank, on demand	125
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	
124 1/2	
Bank, on demand	125
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	
72 1/2	
Private, 30 days' sight	73 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	24 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	
1 p.c. pm.	
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	
1 p.c. pm.	
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	
1 1/2 p.c. pm.	
ON SAIGON.—On demand	
1 p.c. pm.	
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	
60 1/2	
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	
\$11.96	
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	
\$62.60	
BAR SILVER per oz.	
23 1/2	

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

October	
25, Croydon, British str., from New York.	
25, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.	
25, Hsinchi, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
25, Rein, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.	
25, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.	
25, Tientsin, British str., from Canton.	
25, Tiger, German gunboat, from Pakhoi.	
25, Uganda, British trspt., from Lake.	
25, Vale of Deon, British bque, from Rajang.	
25, Yuehsang, British str., from Manila.	
26, Achilles, British str., from Shanghai.	
26, Asashio, Japanese destroyer, from London.	
26, Canton, British str., from Wuhu.	
26, Dorje, British str., from San Francisco.	
26, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Hongay.	
26, Hailan, British str., from Coast Ports.	
26, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.	
26, Kowloon, German str., from Canton.	
27, Borg, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.	
27, Din, Portuguese gunboat, from Macao.	
27, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.	
27, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.	
27, Kaga Maru, Japanese str., from Seattle.	
27, Labor, Norwegian str., from Wuhu.	
27, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.	
27, Michael-Jobsen, German str., from Hoihow.	
27, Ningpo, British str., from Wuhu.	
27, Palgrave, British 4-m. bque, from Kobe.	
27, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.	
27, Seistad, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.	
27, Taishan, British str., from Bangkok.	
27, Thea, German str., from Canton.	
27, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.	
28, Benvenue, British str., from Rangoon.	
28, Chettouham, British str., from Moji.	
28, Lausang, British str., from Canton.	
28, Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.	
28, Hamburg, German str., from Yokohama.	
28, Ichang, British str., from Canton.	
28, Kong Beng, British str., from Bangkok.	
28, Taishun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
28, Tsimu, British str., from Australia.	
29, Bangkok, German str., from Moji.	
29, Decima, German str., from Saigon.	
29, Deramore, Norwegian str., from Moji.	
29, Duke of Fife, British str., from Tacoma.	
29, Express of India, British str., from Vancouver.	
29, Frigga, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.	
29, Hoihow, French str., from Pakhoi.	
29, Hsinchi, Chinese str., from Canton.	
29, La Porte, British str., from Moji.	
29, Perareh, German str., from Saigon.	
29, Seikton, British str., from Wellington.	
29, Themis, Norwegian str., from Manila.	
29, Whampoa, British str., from Shanghai.	
29, Woosung, British str., from Canton.	
29, Yangtze, British str., from Glasgow.	
29, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.	
30, Bjorn, Norwegian str., from Saigon.	
30, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.	
30, Gera, German str., from Hamburg.	
30, Kwangse, British str., from Canton.	
30, Lohian, British str., from Amoy.	
30, Madeleine Lickmers, Ger. str., from Moji.	
30, Pelchabui, German str., from Bangkok.	
30, Phra Clom Khao, Ger. str., from Bangkok.	
30, Wakool, British trspt., from Lake.	
31, Brunhilde, German str., from Manila.	
31, Chwushan, British str., from Saigon.	
31, Daphne, German str., from Rangoon.	
31, Daylight, British 4-m. bque, from Shanghai.	
31, Haiching, British str., from Wuhu.	
31, Hanyang, British str., from Canton.	
31, Hongbee, British str., from Straits.	
31, Inaba Maru, Japanese str., from Shanghai.	
31, Kchichang, German str., from Bangkok.	
31, Kumsang, British str., from Calcutta.	
31, Loyal, German str., from Bangkok.	
31, Rubi, British str., from Manila.	
31, Tiger, German gunboat, from a cruise.	
31, Wongkoi, German str., from Bangkok.	
November—	
1, Albia, German str., from Hamburg.	
1, Bepmohr, British str., from London.	
1, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Shanghai.	
1, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.	
1, Ocean, British battleship, from Nagasaki.	
1, Oceana, German str., from Caroline Islds.	
1, Pronto, Norwegian str., from Wuhu.	
1, Saphir, Norwegian str., from Wuhu.	
1, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.	
1, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.	
2, Sydney, French str., from Marseilles.	

October— DEPARTURES.

25, Amigo, German str., for Amoy.	
25, Apsurade, Ger. str., for Kwangchauwan.	
25, Ballarat, British str., for Europe.	
25, China, German str., for Singapore.	
25, Glenlochy, British str., for Shanghai.	
25, Indravelli, British str., for Portland.	
25, Kanagawa Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.	
25, Massilia, British str., for Shanghai.	
25, Mongkut, German str., for Bangkok.	
25, Ness, British str., for Moji.	
25, Progress, German str., for Tournon.	
25, Sentis, Norwegian str., for Shanghai.	
25, Skramstad, Norwegian str., for Wuhu.	
25, Taichow, German str., for Bangkok.	
26, Canton, British str., for Canton.	
26, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.	
26, Hailan, French str., for Kwangchauwan.	
26, James Brand, British str., for Singapore.	
26, Koun Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.	
26, Kwangse, British str., for Canton.	
26, Singora, German str., for Bangkok.	
26, Tientsin, British str., for Shanghai.	
26, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.	
26, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongay.	
26, Uganda, British transport, for Calcutta.	
27, Croydon, British str., for Shanghai.	
27, Hingsang, British str., for Canton.	
27, Hinsang, British str., for Shanghai.	
27, Kachidate Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.	
27, Labor, Norwegian str., for Canton.	
27, Meifoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.	
27, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.	
27, Taicheong, German str., for Swatow.	
27, Thea, German str., for Wuhu.	
27, Yaensung, British str., for Amoy.	
28, Achilles, British str., for London.	
28, Algerine, British sloop, for Shanghai.	
28, China, American str., for San Francisco.	
28, Emma Luyken, German str., for Saigon.	
28, Hailan, British str., for Swatow.	
28, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.	
28, Kowloon, German str., for Chinkiang.	
28, Marburg, German str., for Kobe.	
28, Ningpo, British str., for Canton.	
28, Rein, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.	
29, Benvenue, British str., for Yokohama.	
29, Chowtai, German str., for Hoihow.	
29, Fausang, British str., for Shanghai.	
29, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.	
29, Hamburg, German str., for Europe.	
29, Hue, French str., for Kwangchauwan.	
29, Ichang, British str., for Shanghai.	
29, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.	
29, Michael-Jobsen, German str., for Pakhoi.	
29, Olympia, British str., for Tacoma.	
29, Shawmut, British str., for Manila.	
29, Sleipner, Norwegian str., for Hongay.	
29, Taishun, Chinese str., for Canton.	
29, Themis, Norwegian str., for Saigon.	
30, Din, Portuguese gunboat, for Macao.	
30, Gloucester City, British str., for Amoy.	
30, Hsinchi, Chinese str., for Shanghai.	
30, Maiduru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.	
30, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.	
30, Seistad, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.	
30, Tiger, German gunboat, for a cruise.	
30, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.	
30, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.	
30, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.	
31, Amphitrite, British cruiser, for Whaiwei.	
31, Borg, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.	
31, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Newchwang.	
31, Gera, German str., for Shanghai.	
31, Kwangse, British str., for Shanghai.	
31, Lena, Norwegian str., for Saigon.	
31, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.	
31, Tritos, German str., for Saigon.	
31, Zvir, Norwegian str., for Sourabaya.	
November—	
1, Chelydra, British str., for Singapore.	
1, Clavering, British str., for Calcutta.	
1, Frigga, German str., for Bangkok.	
1, Hanyang, British str., for Shanghai.	
1, Hoihow, French str., for Hoihow.	
1, Inaba Maru, Japanese str., for London.	
1, Kong Beng, British str., for Bangkok.	
1, L. thian, British str., for New York.	
1, La Porte, British str., for Moji.	
1, Palgrave, British 4-m. bque, for N. York.	
1, Taishan, British str., for Swatow.	
1, Yangtze, British str., for Tacoma.	
1, Yawata Maru, Japanese str., for Australia.	
2, Brunhilde, German str., for Saigon.	
2, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.	
2, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.	
2, Hong Bee, British str., for Amoy.	

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Lightning*, from Calcutta, &c., Miss Gliss, Messrs. Arnfield, W. Shenton, Rotstain, Russ, Weingarten, Steffanoff and Hues.

Per *Ballaarat*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Piry, Mrs. Southey and three children, Miss Bolton, Messrs. E. G. Lebus, E. J. Joseph, D. V. Kuserow, Leigh Hunt and Alex. Criwosus; for Bombay, Mrs. Carpendales; for Marseilles, Mr. G. B. Addison.

Per *Kanagawa Maru*, from Singapore, &c., for Hongkong, Mrs. A. M. Peill and two children, Mrs. Purves Smith and infant, Misses N. Pearse, Horne, Stewart, J. E. Esam, McKenzie, McPherson and Wood, Capt. J. Gibbs and Mr. Mullick; for Japan, Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Fullerton, Baron and Baroness Shibusawa, Mrs. Mauheimer and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Y. Suguki, Misses Clarke and Nishikawa, Messrs. M. Ichihara, G. Hagiwara, Yasoshima, S. Gotto, K. Okakura, Iwaya, Minoh, Osaka, Yoshida, Ishikawa, Matsumura, Kubota and Dr. Tashiro.

Per *Massilia*, for Hongkong, from London, Mrs. Dean, Dr. Keyt, Messrs. T. Blair, Hastings, R. H. King; from Marseilles, Mrs. Radcliffe; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Maclean, Messrs. Bird and Vaughan Robinson; for Shanghai, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Keaney, Mrs. Rankin, Mr. and Mrs. Slimmon, Mr. and Mrs. St. Clair Knox and infant, Miss Weir, Messrs. Baller, Thomas, Tippet, Knight, Gough, Greg, Gregory, Aldis, Landmark, Annis, R. Thoman, W. Leach and H. Snowden; from Marseilles, Rev. and Mrs. Tutley and infant, Mr. and Mrs. T. D. St. Croix, Mr. and Mrs. Page, Comdr. and Mrs. York, Mr. and Mrs. Brand, Mr. and Mrs. Green and two children, Misses Gates and Malt and Mr. Winter; from Bombay, Miss R. Johnson, Messrs. F. L. Trevor and R. W. Sacklatvala; from Singapore, Messrs. J. Mitchell and A. S. Peresche; for Kobe, from London, Mr. J. Farquharson; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. W. F. Wenyon.

Per *Uganda*, from Taku, Majors Dick and Dunstville, Lieut.-Col. Greaney, Capts. Bogle, Carter, Roberts, Brodgen and Lieut. Hall.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Lieut. C. Reissner, Dr. Loff, Messrs. R. Muir and Piehl and Miss Lunggs.

Per *Sungkiang*, from Manila, Mrs. B. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Sepere, Miss Salter, Messrs. K. Chelaram, Black, M. Jacobs, B. Cherry, F. Jorson and H. S. Rosenthal.

Per *Doric*, from San Francisco, &c., Rev. and Mrs. A. A. Forshee, Rev. and Mrs. J. K. Robb and infant, Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Robbins, Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Wright, Capt. J. W. Furlong, U.S.A., Mrs. J. W. Furlong, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Craig, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Wolf, Mrs. Jas. Denman, Mrs. L. Johnstone, Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. W. Grant Fitch, Misses L. Landis, A. M. Lemon, G. Hooper and A. Rice, Prof. L. E. Hicks, Capt. E. Housbery, Lieut.-Col. G. A. Cornish, U.S.A., Capt. F. Kofod, Messrs. W. T. Page, J. T. Wilson, F. Norman, C. Taylor, Hutten, C. E. G. von Jungenfeld, W. C. Barrett, H. Obenhammer, J. M. Hill, H. E. Laslett and A. N. Walton.

Per *Kaga Maru*, from Seattle, Mr. and Mrs. Hansen, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Post, Mr. and Mrs. Boges, Mrs. C. H. Ferrier, Mrs. Mansfield, Misses Montgomery and Jourohmow, Mr. J. A. Pu'off.

Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Comdr. C. W. Bartell, U.S.N., Lieut. H. I. Hirshinger, U.S.M., Messrs. P. N. Shennet, I. McGrath, W. E. High, L. Milo Palma, M. B. Cook, Wilcox, Cua Hand and C. Goodridge.

Per *Tsinan*, from Australia, Mrs. Tilburn and two children and Miss Finlayson.

Per *Rosetta Maru*, from Manila, Mrs. Nickles, Mrs. Murayama, Misses Fox, Stoker, and Yampulsk, Messrs. Jackson, J. R. Comas, P. Johnson, B. W. Cadwallader, C. G. Hayunga, J. McDonough, R. J. Brady, H. E. Martin, Ed. Dale, T. H. Morgan, T. Kato and W. Turner.

Per *Hamburg*, from Shanghai, &c., for Hongkong, Mrs. von Maslowski, Mrs. White, Mrs. Roenick, Mrs. Lefe, Misses Silva Netto and Maud Ahern, Lieut. Schulze, Capt. v. Mangelsdorff, Messrs. Dyer, C. Assumpcao, Orell, F. A. Ebrahim, Musso, Coles, Sparr, Cavillier, Morey and Lynet, H. E. Hsu and Mrs. Hsu; from Yokohama, for Singapore, Mr. Thompson; for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. S. Dennis and children

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Per *Duke of Fife*, from Tacoma, Mesdames Payne and Evans.

Per *Yawata Maru*, from Japan, for Hongkong, Mrs. Geo. A. F. Odlin and child, Mr. and Mrs. Hadsumi, Mr. and Mrs. Freer, Mrs. K. Miura, Mrs. M. Morita, Mrs. M. Fukuda, Mrs. M. Okumura, Capt. H. J. Price, Messrs. D. Matsui, T. Nagata and M. Sagawa; for Brisbane, Mr. John T. Arundel; for Sydney, Messrs. D. A. Solomon and James Morton; for Melbourne, Miss Isabella Menzies, Messrs. W. H. Browne and S. Nakazumi.

Per *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, Rev. and Mrs. Fraser, Rev. and Mrs. Mackay, Mrs. J. S. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Jameson, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Jones, Mrs. Macnamara, Mr. and Mrs. Northcrafe, Rev. Halpin, Messrs. A. B. Howes, E. S. Crowe and E. D. Bell; from Yokohama, Mrs. Cairnes and son, Capt. and Mrs. Martin and child and Major Tomkinson; from Kobe, Miss K. West, Sub-Lieut. S. D. Blair, R. N., Mrs. Okiku Hayasaki, Messrs. T. J. Brunie, M. Montague Hill, W. E. Dennett, J. H. Brooks and C. G. Danby; from Shanghai, Mrs. Johnson and child, Mrs. J. M. Beck and two children, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Sutherland, Hoh. V. B. Ponsonby, Messrs. A. S. Sarle, R. Hancock, Moss, D. Bandry, C. Schroder, MacWillir and J. A. Rothschild.

Per *Bjorn*, from Saigon, Capt. R. E. Henriksen.

Per *Gera*, from Hamburg, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Brighton, Mr. and Mrs. Lisberel and family, Mrs. A. Rieke, Miss Ida Schrittz, Messrs. E. Gohl, F. Schmoll, F. Leonard, H. M. Bosch, Arlt, von Carlowitz Hartzsch, Frank Dunsmore and Hajee Mohamed Abba.

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Per *Rubi*, from Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. Arechavala, Mr. and Mrs. Jarado, Lieut. Leachy, Messrs. J. Fershaw, Nudelman, Cameron, L. Rora, McLaughlin, A. Charfol, J. Hapwood, J. Thomson and W. McLay.

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DEPARTED.

Per *Kasuga Maru*, for Japan, Messrs. A. Gilchrist, G. H. Davies, W. Lecontear, E. J. Wangerheiu, J. Mitchell, Smith, J. F. Young and C. A. van Affelen van Saemsfoort, Mrs. Sato and child, Mr. and Mrs. Fukuchi, Messrs. Yasuda and K. Satohara.

Per *Massilia*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mrs. P. Smith and infant, Mrs. Peill and two children, Misses Wood, Esam, Pearse and Macpherson and McKenzie, Messrs. E. Owen and Schubart.

Per *Ballaarat*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Messrs. P. A. Roxas and Alipo Paniquillo; for Colombo, Mr. R. de Calo; for Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. W. Elliot Smith and two daughters and Mrs. Parke and daughter; for Marseilles, Marseilles, Mr. Boschar; for London, Mrs. Daly, Sub-Lieut. R. Baechus, Messrs. Dickinson and E. J. Cole, R.N.; from Shanghai, for Bombay, Mrs. Southy and three children; for Marseilles, Mr. G. B. Addison.

Per *China*, for Shanghai, Mrs. S. A. Joseph, Miss and Master Joseph, Mrs. Stephenson, Messrs. E. D. Haskell, A. V. Apar, H. P. Madar, F. Bonnett, E. Goldberg and H. P. White; for Nagasaki, Mr. P. N. Thervet; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. McBean, Messrs. H. E. Martin, I. McDonough, C. I. Brady and C. C. G. Hayunger; for Honolulu, Mrs. M. Daly; for San Francisco, Mrs. W. F. Gwynne, Miss Lide Gwynne, Messrs. Hugh Gwynne and Andrew Gwynne, General and Mrs. G. E. P. Howard, Comdr. Bartlett, U.S.N., Lieut. Hirshinger, Surgeon W. E. G. High, U.S.N., Dr. J. Repetti, Messrs. Robert Muir, Ray Spear, C. Sarmiento, M. Hartoffel, P. Arnfield, Herman Genzow, John McGrath, Alfred Brunet, Ernest La Rue and Paul Johnson.

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Per *Rosetta Maru*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Robbins, Mr. and Mrs. Forshee, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Wolf, Mr. and Mrs. Furlong, Mrs. T. Otaka, Mrs. L. Resnik, Mrs. and Master Cairns, Mrs. H. N. Deuman, Mrs. A. Maix, Miss Marix, Miss Tony Weis, Col. J. A. Cornish, Capt. H. J. Poice, Messrs. Wm. T. Page, A. Weingarten, A. Hutter, W. Jackson, J. H. Michael, Ed. Johannsen, K. Kuranaga, S. Kosaka, E. de la Roma, J. A. Jupp, Robert Knox, J. M. Poizat, P. A. Roxas, and C. G. Edwards.

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